

House Bill 1540

By: Representatives Jackson of the 112th, Mills of the 21st, Walker of the 87th, Coan of the 82nd, Smith of the 91st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to local boards of education, so as to provide a statement of intent; to provide that
3 local boards of education shall have the authority to provide for a display of copies of the
4 first sentence of the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, the Ten
5 Commandments, the national motto, and the preamble to the Constitution of the State of
6 Georgia in the public schools; to provide that no appropriated funds shall be expended for
7 such purpose; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local
11 boards of education, is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:

12 "20-2-70.

13 (a) The intent of this Code section is to encourage the display of historical documents in
14 the public schools.

15 (b) Every local board of education is authorized to provide for a display of the following
16 documents in a prominent place in each public school: the first sentence of the second
17 paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, which states, 'We hold these truths to be
18 self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with
19 certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness';
20 the Ten Commandments; the national motto, which reads, 'In God We Trust'; and the
21 preamble to the Constitution of the State of Georgia, which states, 'To perpetuate the
22 principles of free government, insure justice to all, preserve peace, promote the interest and
23 happiness of the citizen and of the family, and transmit to posterity the enjoyment of
24 liberty, we the people of Georgia, relying upon the protection and guidance of Almighty
25 God, do ordain and establish this Constitution.'

1 (c) Each local board of education shall be authorized to accept private donations to fund
2 the costs associated with any such display. No appropriated state funds shall be used for
3 such purpose."

4 **SECTION 2.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.