

Senate Bill 283

By: Senators Dugan of the 30th, Mullis of the 53rd, Harper of the 7th, Millar of the 40th, Hufstetler of the 52nd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, so as to authorize school systems  
3 to provide instruction on the history of traditional winter celebrations; to provide for  
4 displays; to provide for limitations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

8 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended by adding a new Code section to  
10 read as follows:

11 "20-2-149.2.

12 (a) A local school system may educate students about the history of traditional winter  
13 celebrations and allow students and school system staff to offer traditional greetings  
14 regarding the celebrations, including:

15 (1) "Merry Christmas";

16 (2) "Happy Hanukkah"; and

17 (3) "Happy holidays."

18 (b) Except as provided by subsection (c) of this Code section, a local school system may  
19 display on school property scenes or symbols associated with traditional winter  
20 celebrations, including a menorah or a Christmas image, such as a nativity scene or  
21 Christmas tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of:

22 (1) More than one religion; or

23 (2) One religion and at least one secular scene or symbol.

24 (c) A display relating to a traditional winter celebration shall not include a message that  
25 encourages adherence to a particular religious belief."

26

**SECTION 2.**

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.