

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

AS PASSED SENATE

**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 **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 shall allow students and school system staff to offer traditional greetings
14 regarding the celebrations, including, but not limited to:

15 (1) "Merry Christmas";

16 (2) "Happy Hanukkah"; and

17 (3) "Happy holidays."

18 (b) A local school system may display on school property scenes or symbols associated
19 with traditional winter celebrations, including a menorah or a Christmas image, such as a
20 nativity scene or Christmas tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of:

21 (1) More than one religion; or

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

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.