

House Bill 1249

By: Representative Santos of the 117th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 19A of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to American history recognition and significant documents, so as to require public
3 elementary and secondary schools in this state to display the Bill of Rights in multiple
4 locations; to provide for specifications for such displays; to provide for rules and regulations;
5 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 19A of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 American history recognition and significant documents, is amended by revising Code
11 Section 20-2-1021, relating to display of historically significant documents, as follows:

12 "20-2-1021.

13 (a) To increase student understanding of, and familiarity with, American historical
14 documents, public schools may display historically important excerpts from, or copies of,
15 those documents in school classrooms and common areas as appropriate. Local boards of
16 education and charter schools are strongly encouraged to allow and may encourage any

17 public school teacher or administrator to read or post in a public school building,
18 classroom, or event excerpts or portions of writings, documents, records, or images that
19 reflect the history of the United States, including, but not limited to:

- 20 (1) The Preamble to the Georgia Constitution;
- 21 (2) The Declaration of Independence;
- 22 (3) The United States Constitution, with emphasis on the ~~13th, 14th, and 15th~~ Thirteenth,
23 Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments;
- 24 (4) The Bill of Rights;
- 25 (5) The Mayflower Compact;
- 26 (6) The national motto;
- 27 (7) The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag;
- 28 (7.1) The Pledge of Allegiance to the Georgia flag;
- 29 (8) The National Anthem;
- 30 (9) The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the Founding Fathers and
31 Presidents of the United States;
- 32 (9.1) The Emancipation Proclamation;
- 33 (9.2) The Gettysburg Address;
- 34 (10) Decisions of the United States Supreme Court; and
- 35 (11) Acts of the Congress of the United States, including the published text of the
36 Congressional Record.

37 (b)(1) No later than January 1, 2027, each public elementary and secondary school in this
38 state shall display in each of the three locations provided for in paragraph (2) of this
39 subsection a durable poster or framed copy of the Bill of Rights in accordance with the
40 requirements of paragraph (3) of this subsection.

41 (2) A durable poster or framed copy of the Bill of Rights, as required in paragraph (1)
42 of this subsection, shall be displayed in a manner and location in which it can easily be

43 read by both students and adults in locations within each school facility fitting the
44 following descriptions:

45 (A) The main entrance of the main building;

46 (B) The main entrance of the school library or media center; and

47 (C) The main entrance of the cafeteria.

48 (3) Each durable poster or framed copy of the Bill of Rights as required in paragraph (1)
49 of this subsection shall:

50 (A) Measure at least 18 inches in width and 24 inches in height; and

51 (B) Contain only the following text, in the following order:

52 (i) A centered heading entitled 'The Bill of Rights' set out in a font size larger than
53 any other text set out on such durable poster or framed copy; and

54 (ii) The text of the First through Tenth Amendments of the United States
55 Constitution, including a subheading indicating the respective amendment, in a font
56 size and typeface legible to a person with average vision from within the locations
57 listed in paragraph (2) of this subsection in which the durable poster or framed copy
58 is displayed.

59 (4)(A) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any public school, local
60 school system, or local board of education to spend public funds to purchase any
61 durable posters or framed copies of the Bill of Rights in order to comply with the
62 requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

63 (B) Each public school, local school system, or local board of education shall accept:

64 (i) Funds donated for the purchase of durable posters or framed copies of the Bill of
65 Rights, as required in paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

66 (ii) Any offer of a privately donated durable poster or framed copy of the Bill of
67 Rights; provided, however, that such durable poster or framed copy meets the
68 requirements set forth in paragraph (3) of this subsection.

69 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to
70 implement the requirements of this subsection.

71 (6) The Department of Education shall publish on its website information that identifies
72 free resources that comply with the provisions of this subsection.

73 ~~(b)~~(c) As historical documents, there shall be no content based censorship of American
74 history and heritage documents referred to in this Code section due to their religious or
75 cultural nature."

76 **SECTION 2.**

77 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
78 without such approval.

79 **SECTION 3.**

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