

By: Noble

H.B. No. 2696

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 1.0041 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.0041. DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS. (a) Subject to Subsection (e), a public elementary or secondary school shall display in a conspicuous place in each classroom of the school a durable poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments that meets the requirements of Subsection (b).

(b) A poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments described by Subsection (a) must:

(1) include only the text of the Ten Commandments as provided by Subsection (c) in a size and typeface that is legible to a person with average vision from anywhere in the classroom in which the poster or framed copy is displayed; and

(2) be at least 16 inches wide and 20 inches tall.

(c) The text of the poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments described by Subsection (a) must read as follows:

"The Ten Commandments

I AM the LORD thy God.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.

1 Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

2 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

3 Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the
4 land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

5 Thou shalt not kill.

6 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7 Thou shalt not steal.

8 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

9 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

10 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor
11 his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy
12 neighbor's."

13 (d) A public elementary or secondary school in which each
14 classroom does not include a poster or framed copy of the Ten
15 Commandments as required by Subsection (a) must:

16 (1) accept any offer of a privately donated poster or
17 framed copy of the Ten Commandments provided that the poster or
18 copy:

19 (A) meets the requirements of Subsection (b); and

20 (B) does not contain any additional content; and

21 (2) display the poster or framed copy as specified in
22 Subsection (a).

23 (e) A public elementary or secondary school in which each
24 classroom does not include a poster or framed copy of the Ten
25 Commandments as required by Subsection (a) may, but is not required
26 to, purchase posters or copies that meet the requirements of
27 Subsection (b) using district funds.

1 (f) Notwithstanding any other law, a public elementary or
2 secondary school is not exempt from this section.

3 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
4 school year.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.