

SENATE BILL No. 233

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-30-6-18; IC 36-1-8-18.

Synopsis: Winter holidays in schools, cities, and towns. Provides that a school corporation may: (1) instruct students about the history of traditional winter celebrations; (2) allow the use of traditional greetings concerning the celebrations; and (3) display on school property scenes or symbols associated with traditional winter celebrations if certain conditions are met and the scenes or symbols do not include a message that encourages a particular religious belief. Requires the state board of education to develop guidelines to assist school corporations in developing appropriate instruction and displays. Provides that the legislative body of a city, including a consolidated city, or town may adopt an ordinance that: (1) allows employees to use traditional greetings concerning traditional winter celebrations; and (2) allows the display on city or town property scenes or symbols associated with traditional winter celebrations if certain conditions are met and the scenes or symbols do not include a message that encourages a particular religious belief.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

Smith J

January 6, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.



First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 233

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-30-6-18 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2015]: **Sec. 18. (a) Each school corporation may:**
4 **(1) instruct students about the history of traditional winter**
5 **celebrations; and**
6 **(2) allow students and employees to offer traditional greetings**
7 **regarding the celebrations, including:**
8 **(A) "Merry Christmas";**
9 **(B) "Happy Hanukkah";**
10 **(C) "Happy Holidays"; and**
11 **(D) other seasonal greetings.**
12 **(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), a school corporation**
13 **may display on property owned by the school corporation scenes**
14 **or symbols associated with traditional winter celebrations,**
15 **including a menorah, Christmas tree, Nativity scene, or other**
16 **religious symbol associated with traditional winter celebrations, if**



1 the display includes a scene or symbol of:

2 (1) more than one (1) religion; or

3 (2) one (1) religion and at least one (1) secular scene or
4 symbol.

5 (c) A display described in subsection (b) may not include a
6 message that encourages adherence to a particular religious belief.

7 (d) The state board shall develop guidelines to assist school
8 corporations in developing appropriate instruction and displays
9 concerning traditional winter celebrations.

10 SECTION 2. IC 36-1-8-18 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
11 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
12 1, 2015]: Sec. 18. (a) This section applies only to cities, including a
13 consolidated city, and towns.

14 (b) The legislative body of a city or town may adopt an
15 ordinance that allows employees to offer traditional greetings
16 regarding the celebrations, including:

17 (1) "Merry Christmas";

18 (2) "Happy Hanukkah";

19 (3) "Happy Holidays"; and

20 (4) other seasonal greetings.

21 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), a city or town may
22 display on property owned by the city or town scenes or symbols
23 associated with traditional winter celebrations, including a
24 menorah, Christmas tree, Nativity scene, or other religious symbol
25 associated with traditional winter celebrations, if the display
26 includes a scene or symbol of:

27 (1) more than one (1) religion; or

28 (2) one (1) religion and at least one (1) secular scene or
29 symbol.

30 (d) A display described in subsection (c) may not include a
31 message that encourages adherence to a particular religious belief.

