

SENATE BILL No. 326

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-30-6-18.

Synopsis: Celebration of winter holidays in schools. 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 department of education to develop guidelines to assist school corporations in developing appropriate instruction and displays.

Effective: July 1, 2014.

Smith J

January 14, 2014, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.



Second Regular Session 118th General Assembly (2014)

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 2013 Regular Session and 2013 First Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 326

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

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, 2014]: **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 department shall develop guidelines to assist school**
- 8 **corporations in developing appropriate instruction and displays**
- 9 **concerning traditional winter celebrations.**

