

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 108**  
**101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

0415H.02C

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

To amend chapters 162, 170, and 171, RSMo, by adding thereto four new sections relating to elementary and secondary education.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapters 162, 170, and 171, RSMo, are amended by adding thereto four new sections, to be known as sections 162.052, 170.025, 170.341, and 171.025, to read as follows:

- 2       **162.052. 1. The registered voters of a school district may file a petition with the**  
3       **district's school board asking that an item be placed on a board meeting agenda. If the**  
4       **school board of a school district receives a petition, signed by at least five percent of the**  
5       **registered voters of the school district voting in the last school board election, calling for**  
6       **an item to be placed on the agenda for the school board's next meeting, the school board**  
7       **shall place the requested item on the next meeting's agenda and shall take a vote on the**  
8       **petitioned item. The petition shall include each signer's printed or typed name, registered**  
9       **voting address, signature, and the date signed.**
- 10       **2. The school board shall follow all relevant board policies in regards to the**  
11       **placement of the item on the agenda, time allowed for discussion, testimony allowed,**  
12       **quorum requirements, the process by which a vote is taken, and the required number of**  
13       **votes for approval.**
- 14       **3. The petition shall contain a concise statement of what the school board is being**  
15       **requested to discuss and vote upon. Such statement shall consist of no more than one**  
16       **hundred words. The item requested by the petition shall be presented to the board in its**  
17       **exact form and shall not be modified by the board.**
- 18       **4. A petition to request an item to be placed on the school board's agenda shall not**  
      **be submitted for the same item more than once every six months.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

19           **5. Items that may be presented to the board by petition shall include, but shall not**  
20 **be limited to:**

21           **(1) Implementing, changing, or repealing a board policy;**

22           **(2) Modifying or reversing an action by school administration or requesting that**  
23 **certain action be taken by school administration;**

24           **(3) Implementing, changing, or discontinuing the use of any curriculum or course**  
25 **of instruction;**

26           **(4) Modifying the school calendar; or**

27           **(5) Retaining or terminating a certain teacher, administrator, or school personnel.**

28           **6. The petition process under this section shall not be used to recall board members,**  
29 **change district boundaries, authorize any bonding, impose any additional tax, or for any**  
30 **other purpose that would require an issue be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by**  
31 **residents at an election. However, a petition may be used under this section to request that**  
32 **any of the issues described under this subsection be discussed at an upcoming school board**  
33 **meeting and voted upon by the school board for further consideration by the district's**  
34 **voters.**

**170.025. 1. Each school district shall ensure that:**

2           **(1) Its elementary school or schools provide instruction in cursive writing so that**  
3 **students create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of the**  
4 **fifth grade; and**

5           **(2) Each student passes with proficiency a teacher-constructed test demonstrating**  
6 **competency in both reading and writing cursive.**

7           **2. The department of elementary and secondary education may promulgate rules**  
8 **to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is**  
9 **defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall**  
10 **become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter**  
11 **536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and**  
12 **if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review,**  
13 **to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held**  
14 **unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted**  
15 **after August 28, 2021, shall be invalid and void.**

**170.341. 1. Any school district may offer students:**

2           **(1) An elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament**  
3 **of the Bible;**

4           **(2) An elective social studies course on the New Testament of the Bible; or**

5           **(3) An elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures and the New**  
6 **Testament of the Bible.**

7           **2. The purpose of a course under this section is to:**

8           **(1) Teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters, poetry, and narratives**  
9 **that are prerequisites to understanding American history and culture, including literature,**  
10 **art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy; and**

11           **(2) Familiarize students with, as applicable:**

12           **(a) The contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;**

13           **(b) The history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;**

14           **(c) The literary style and structure of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;**

15 **and**

16           **(d) The influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament on law, history,**  
17 **government, literature, art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture.**

18           **3. A student shall not be required to use a specific translation as the sole text of the**  
19 **Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament and may use as the basic textbook a different**  
20 **translation of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament from that chosen by the school**  
21 **district.**

22           **4. A course offered under this section shall follow applicable law and all federal and**  
23 **state guidelines in maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse**  
24 **religious views, traditions, and perspectives of students in the school. A course offered**  
25 **under this section shall not endorse, favor, or promote, or disfavor or show hostility**  
26 **toward, any particular religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective.**

27           **5. School districts, in complying with this section, shall not violate any provision**  
28 **of the Constitution of the United States or federal law, the Constitution of Missouri or any**  
29 **state law, or any administrative regulations of the department of elementary and secondary**  
30 **education or the United States Department of Education.**

**171.025. 1. Beginning in the 2022-23 school year and continuing thereafter, a**  
2 **school district shall require all schools within the district to display the national motto of**  
3 **the United States, "In God We Trust", in a prominent location in each school.**

4           **2. The display required in subsection 1 of this section may take the form of, but is**  
5 **not limited to, a mounted plaque or student artwork.**

6           **3. As used in this section, "prominent location" means a school entryway, cafeteria,**  
7 **or common area where students are likely to see the national motto display.**

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