64th Legislature HB0293.01

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 293
2	INTRODUCED BY B. BROWN
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE BILL OF RIGHTS TO BE POSTED IN CERTAIN
5	PUBLIC PLACES; AND AMENDING SECTION 1-1-540, MCA."
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7	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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9	Section 1. Section 1-1-540, MCA, is amended to read:
10	"1-1-540. Display of historical writings or documents in or on public buildings or on state land
11	definitions. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) (4), a state agency or unit of local government may
12	display the national motto, "in God we trust", as adopted by congress in 1998 (36 U.S.C. 302), in or on public
13	buildings or state-owned land occupied by a state agency or unit of local government. For purposes of this
14	section, the use of the word "God" is not intended to further the establishment of any specific religion or set of
15	religious beliefs or to dissuade the free exercise of any religion or set of religious beliefs.
16	(2) In addition to the national motto, the legislature encourages the display of other historical documents
17	in or on public buildings and state-owned land, including but not limited to:
18	(a) the Declaration of Independence;
19	(b) the United States constitution;
20	(c) the pledge of allegiance;
21	(d) the national anthem;
22	(e) the Mayflower Compact;
23	(f) the writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the founders and the presidents of the
24	United States;
25	(g) writings from United States supreme court decisions;
26	(h) organic documents from the precolonial, colonial, revolutionary, federalist, and postfederalist eras;
27	(i) acts of the United States congress, including the published text of the Congressional Record;
28	(j) United States treaties; and
29	(k) any other writings, documents, or proclamations that are permanently displayed in a historic context
30	in the United States capitol.

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1	(3) The first 10 amendments to the United States constitution, commonly known as the bill of rights, must
2	be conspicuously posted in an easily readable form in the main entry areas of:
3	(a) city and county courthouses;
4	(b) schools; and
5	(c) any public building where members of the public regularly frequent.
6	(3)(4) The content of any writing, document, or record described in subsection (2) may not be censored
7	solely because the writing, document, or record contains religious references, nor may any writings, documents,
8	or material be selected for display in order to advance a particular religious, partisan, or sectarian purpose.
9	(4)(5) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:
0	(a) "Local government" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116.
1	(b) "State agency" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116."
2	- END -

