

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 HOUSE BILL 2177

By: Bennett (John), West
(Rick), Enns, Vaughan,
Dunlap, McDugle, Moore,
Brumbaugh, Strohm and
Roberts (Sean)

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9 AS INTRODUCED

10 An Act relating to historical artifacts; providing
11 for legislative intent; authorizing certain entities
12 to display historically significant documents on
13 certain property; authorizing Attorney General to
14 defend certain actions; providing for codification;
15 providing for noncodification; and providing an
16 effective date.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
19 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

20 A. Certain historical documents, monuments and writings have
21 been recognized to commemorate freedom and the rich history of
22 Oklahoma and the United States of America.

23 B. The Ten Commandments, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact,
24 Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of

1 Rights, Constitution of the Great State of Oklahoma, and other such
2 historically significant documents are recognized throughout the
3 world.

4 C. The Ten Commandments, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact,
5 Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of
6 Rights, Constitution of the Great State of Oklahoma, and other such
7 historically significant documents are treasures that should be
8 displayed proudly and resolutely in public buildings and on public
9 grounds.

10 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2101 of Title 25, unless there
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. Every county, municipality, city, town, school or any other
14 political subdivision is authorized to display, in its public
15 buildings and on its grounds, replicas of historical documents
16 including, but not limited to, the Ten Commandments, Magna Carta,
17 Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, United States
18 Constitution, Bill of Rights, Oklahoma Constitution and other
19 historically significant documents in the form of statues,
20 monuments, memorials, tablets or any other display that respects the
21 dignity and solemnity of such documents.

22 B. In the event that the legality or constitutionality of any
23 such display is challenged in a court of law, the Oklahoma Attorney
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1 General is authorized to prepare and present a legal defense of the
2 display.

3 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.
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5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND
6 ACCOUNTABILITY, dated 02/09/2017 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.
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