

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 40

By: Thompson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; allowing school districts
8 to educate students about the history of winter
9 celebrations; allowing offerings of certain
10 greetings; providing for certain displays;
11 prohibiting display of certain messages; providing
12 for codification; providing an effective date; and
13 declaring an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-156 of Title 70, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. A school district may educate students about the history of
19 traditional winter celebrations and allow students and district
20 staff to offer traditional greetings regarding the celebrations,
21 including but not limited to:

- 22 1. "Merry Christmas";
- 23 2. "Happy Hanukkah"; and
- 24 3. "happy holidays".

1 B. Except as provided by Subsection C of this act, a school
2 district may display on school property scenes or symbols associated
3 with traditional winter celebrations, including but not limited to a
4 menorah or a Christmas image such as a nativity scene or Christmas
5 tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of:

- 6 1. More than one religion; or
- 7 2. One religion and at least one secular scene or symbol.

8 C. A display relating to a traditional winter celebration shall
9 not include a message that encourages adherence to a particular
10 religious belief.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

12 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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