

HOUSE BILL 2439

By Lynn

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, relative to curriculum on traditional  
winter celebrations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 10, is amended by adding the following language as a new, section:

49-6-1032.

(a) Every LEA is encouraged to promote educational opportunities to inform students about the history of traditional winter celebrations and allow students, teachers and administrators of an LEA to offer traditional greetings regarding the celebrations, including, but not limited to:

- (1) merry Christmas;
- (2) happy Hanukkah; and
- (3) happy holidays.

(b) Except as provided by subsection (c), an LEA may display, on school property, scenes or symbols associated with traditional winter celebrations, including a menorah or a Christmas image, such as a nativity scene or Christmas tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of:

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

(c) The use, reading, writing or display of the types of traditional winter celebrations authorized by this section shall be undertaken for educational purposes only and shall not be used to support, encourage or permit a student,

teacher, administrator or other employee of the public schools to lead, direct or encourage any religious or antireligious activity in violation of that portion of the first amendment of the United States constitution prohibiting laws respecting an establishment of religion.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.