

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 923

4  
5 By: Senator Holt  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO USE THE  
10 ORIGINAL LANGUAGE FROM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS FOR  
11 INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT  
12 OF EDUCATION TO USE LANGUAGE FROM ORIGINAL  
13 HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS TO TEST READING  
14 COMPREHENSION; TO REQUIRE THAT STUDENTS BE  
15 PROVIDED THE FULL TEXT OF ORIGINAL HISTORICAL  
16 DOCUMENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUSPENSION OF A  
17 TEACHING LICENSE FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ACT; AND  
18 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
19

## Subtitle

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21 TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO USE THE  
22 ORIGINAL LANGUAGE FROM HISTORICAL  
23 DOCUMENTS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES; TO  
24 REQUIRE THAT STUDENTS BE PROVIDED THE  
25 FULL TEXT OF ORIGINAL HISTORICAL  
26 DOCUMENTS.  
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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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31 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-122 is amended to read as follows:  
32 6-16-122. American heritage.

33 (a) Local school boards may allow and encourage any teacher or  
34 administrator in a public school district of this state to read or post in a  
35 public school building, classroom, or event any excerpts or portions of:

36 (1) The Preamble to the Arkansas Constitution;



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- 1 (2) The Declaration of Independence;
- 2 (3) The United States Constitution;
- 3 (4) The Mayflower Compact;
- 4 (5) The national motto;
- 5 (6) The national anthem;
- 6 (7) The Pledge of Allegiance;
- 7 (8) The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the
- 8 founding fathers and Presidents of the United States, specifically including
- 9 but not limited to, John F. Kennedy’s inaugural speech and George
- 10 Washington’s inaugural and farewell addresses, and the Gettysburg Address;
- 11 (9) Organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial,
- 12 Revolutionary, Federalist, and post-Federalist eras;
- 13 (10) United States Supreme Court decisions; ~~and~~
- 14 (11) Acts of the United States Congress; and
- 15 (12) Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., specifically
- 16 including but not limited to, the “I Have Dream” speech.

17 (b) There shall be no content-based censorship of American history or

18 heritage in this state based on religious or other references in these

19 writings, documents, and records.

20 (c)(1) Any instruction regarding the historical documents listed in

21 this section, shall be from only the original contents of the documents, not

22 commentary regarding the documents or speeches.

23 (2) Students shall be provided with the full text of the

24 documents or speeches when discussed as part of the regular course of

25 classroom instruction.

26 ~~(e)(d)~~ A copy of this section shall be distributed to the

27 superintendent of each school district in the state by the Department of

28 Education, whereupon the superintendents then shall provide a copy to each

29 teacher and each school board member.

30 (e) The Department of Education shall require all standardized tests

31 required for students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) to include use of

32 the historical documents in the reading comprehension sections.

33 (f) The State Board of Education may suspend the teaching license of

34 any teacher who violates the provisions of this section.

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