

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 238

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 1, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE AD-  
DITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-143, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPLAY  
OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EF-  
FECTIVE DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 1, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
ignated as Section 33-143, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-143. DISPLAY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. (1) For the purposes of this  
section "educational institution" means an educational institution under  
the general supervision, governance, or control of the state board of educa-  
tion or the board of regents of the university of Idaho and any other school  
located in the state of Idaho that receives public funds from the state of  
Idaho.

(2) An educational institution shall display a durable poster or a  
framed copy of a representation of the ten commandments that meets the re-  
quirements of subsection (3) of this section in a conspicuous location in the  
educational institution.

(3) A poster or framed copy of the ten commandments required by the pro-  
visions of subsection (2) of this section shall:

(a) Be at least sixteen (16) inches wide and twenty (20) inches tall;  
and

(b) Include in a size and typeface that is legible the text of the ten  
commandments to read as follows:

The Ten Commandments:  
I AM the LORD thy God.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon  
the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant,  
nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy  
neighbor's.

1 (4) An educational institution that does not display a durable poster  
2 or a framed copy of the ten commandments as required by subsection (2) of this  
3 section shall:

4 (a) Accept any offer of a privately donated durable poster or framed  
5 copy of the ten commandments if the poster or copy:

6 (i) Meets the requirements of the provisions of subsection (3) of  
7 this section; and

8 (ii) Does not contain any additional content; and

9 (b) Display the poster or framed copy as specified in subsection (2) of  
10 this section.

11 (5) If an educational institution has in its possession a poster or  
12 framed copy of the ten commandments that does not meet the requirements of  
13 subsection (3) of this section, the institution may replace the posters or  
14 copies with posters or copies that meet the requirements of subsection (3)  
15 of this section by accepting a private donation. If an educational insti-  
16 tution receives additional donated ten commandments displays pursuant to  
17 this subsection, it shall display such additional ten commandments displays  
18 in conspicuous places in the classrooms of the educational institution.  
19 If all classrooms of an educational institution contain ten commandments  
20 displays that meet the requirements of section (3) and this section, and an  
21 educational institution has in its possession additional ten commandments  
22 displays that are not needed, it may offer such displays as a donation to  
23 other educational institutions.

24 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
25 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
26 July 1, 2025.