

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0130

Education-elective academic bible study.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Watt

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public school elective courses;
2 providing for elective classes in biblical studies; and
3 providing for an effective date.

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5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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7 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-9-104 is created to read:

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9 **21-9-104. Elective courses on the bible's Hebrew**
10 **scriptures (old testament) and new testament.**

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12 (a) A school district may offer to students in grade
13 nine (9) or above elective credit courses on the Hebrew
14 scriptures (old testament) and its impact and elective
15 credit courses on the new testament and its impact or a
16 course combining the two (2) subject matters noted herein
17 into one (1) elective credit course.

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2 (b) The purpose of this course or courses is to:

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4 (i) Teach students knowledge of biblical
5 content, characters, poetry and narratives that are
6 prerequisites to understanding contemporary society and
7 culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory
8 and public policy;

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10 (ii) Familiarize students with, as applicable:

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12 (A) The contents of the Hebrew scriptures
13 or new testament;

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15 (B) The history of the Hebrew scriptures or
16 new testament;

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18 (C) The literary style and structure of the
19 Hebrew scriptures or new testament;

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21 (D) The influence of the Hebrew scriptures
22 or new testament on law, history, government, literature,
23 art, music, customs, morals, values and culture.

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1 (c) A student may not be required to use a specific
2 translation as the sole text of the Hebrew scriptures or
3 new testament and may use as the basic textbook a different
4 translation of the Hebrew scriptures or new testament from
5 that chosen by the board of trustees of the student's
6 school district or the student's teacher.

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8 (d) A course offered under this subsection shall
9 follow applicable law and all federal and state guidelines
10 in maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the
11 diverse religious views, traditions and perspectives of
12 students in their school district. A course offered under
13 this section shall not endorse, favor or promote, or
14 disfavor or show hostility toward, any particular religion
15 or nonreligious faith or religious perspective. Nothing in
16 this statute is intended to violate any provision of the
17 United States constitution or federal law, the Wyoming
18 constitution or any state law, or any rules or guidelines
19 provided by the United States department of education or
20 the state department of education.

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22 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2013.

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(END)