

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 691

Introduced by Murman, 38; DeKay, 40; Holdcroft, 36; Kauth, 31; Lonowski,
33; Storer, 43.

Read first time January 22, 2025

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to require school districts and
2 governing boards of certain approved or accredited private,
3 denominational, and parochial schools to display the Ten
4 Commandments in school buildings as prescribed; and to provide
5 powers and duties to the State Board of Education.

6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** (1) On and after the effective date of this act, each
2 school board of a public school district and each governing board of an
3 approved or accredited private, denominational, or parochial school that
4 receives state funds shall display the Ten Commandments:

5 (a) In each classroom of an elementary school; and

6 (b) In each school building of a middle school or high school.

7 (2) The nature of the Ten Commandments display shall be determined
8 by each school board or governing board, but shall at a minimum:

9 (a) Focus on the text of the Ten Commandments in an easy-to-read
10 font;

11 (b) Be displayed on a poster or framed document that is at least
12 eleven inches by fourteen inches in size; and

13 (c) Include the following language:

14 The Ten Commandments

15 I AM the LORD thy God.

16 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

17 Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.

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

19 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

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

22 Thou shalt not kill.

23 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

24 Thou shalt not steal.

25 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

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

29 (3) This section does not require a public school or an approved or
30 accredited private, denominational, or parochial school to spend funding
31 on the purchase of such display. A school board or a governing board may

1 accept contributions to defray the costs of implementing this section and
2 may accept donated displays that comply with the requirements of this
3 section.

4 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and
5 regulations to carry out this section.