

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered by _____ of _____

Amend SS/SCS/Senate Bill Nos. 411 & 230, Page 30, Section 167.790, Line 72,

2 by inserting after all of said line the following:

3 "170.341. 1. Any school district or public charter
 4 school may offer students elective social studies courses
 5 relating, but not limited to, the following:

6 (1) The Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament of the
 7 Bible;

8 (2) The New Testament of the Bible; or

9 (3) The Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the
 10 Bible.

11 2. The purpose of a course under this section is to:

12 (1) Teach students knowledge of biblical content,
 13 characters, poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to
 14 understanding contemporary society and culture, including
 15 literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy;
 16 and

17 (2) Familiarize students with, as applicable:

18 (a) The contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
 19 Testament;

20 (b) The history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
 21 Testament;

22 (c) The literary style and structure of the Hebrew
 23 Scriptures or New Testament; and

24 (d) The influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
 25 Testament on law, history, government, literature, art,
 26 music, customs, morals, values, and culture.

27 3. A student shall not be required to use a specific
28 translation as the sole text of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
29 Testament and may use as the basic textbook a different
30 translation of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament from
31 that chosen by the school district or public charter school.

32 4. A course offered under this section shall follow
33 applicable law and all federal and state guidelines in
34 maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the
35 diverse religious views, traditions, and perspectives of
36 students in the school. A course offered under this section
37 shall not endorse, favor, or promote, or disfavor or show
38 hostility toward, any particular religion or nonreligious
39 faith or religious perspective.

40 5. School districts and public charter schools, in
41 complying with this section, shall not violate any provision
42 of the Constitution of the United States or federal law, the
43 Constitution of Missouri or any state law, or any
44 administrative regulations of the department of elementary
45 and secondary education or the United States Department of
46 Education."; and

47 Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.