

HOUSE BILL No. 2280

By Representatives Meigs, Boldra, Bradford, Brunk, Couture-Lovelady, DeGraaf, Dove, Gonzalez, Grosserode, Hermanson, Hibbard, Hildabrand, Hoffman, Jones, Kleeb, Lunn, Macheers, Mast, McPherson, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osterman, Powell, Read, Ryckman Jr., Ryckman Sr., Schwab, Siegfried, Sutton and Todd

2-8

1 AN ACT concerning school districts; establishing celebrate freedom week
2 and related curriculum.

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4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) In order to educate students about the sacrifices made
6 for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this
7 country was founded, the week starting September 15, 2013, and the week
8 of September containing the 17th day of such month in each year thereafter
9 is hereby designated as "celebrate freedom week" in each public school.

10 (b) The state board of education, in cooperation with such other state
11 agencies or private entities who voluntarily participate, shall promote
12 "celebrate freedom week" through a coordinated program.

13 (c) For purposes of this section, Sunday is deemed to be the first day
14 of the week.

15 Sec. 2. On or before December 31, 2014, the state board of education
16 shall adopt rules and regulations requiring appropriate instruction be
17 provided as part of the curriculum on civil government concerning the
18 original intent, meaning and importance of the declaration of
19 independence and the United States constitution, including the bill of
20 rights of the United States constitution, in their historical contexts. The
21 religious references in the writings of the founding fathers shall not be
22 censored when presented as part of such instruction. Such rules and
23 regulations shall provide that the study of the declaration of independence
24 include the study of the relationship of the ideas expressed in that
25 document to subsequent American history, including the relationship of
26 such ideas to the rich diversity of our people as a nation of immigrants, the
27 American revolution, the formulation of the United States constitution and
28 the abolitionist movement, which led to the emancipation proclamation
29 and the women's suffrage movement. Such instruction shall be taught
30 during "celebrate freedom week," established under section 1, and
31 amendments thereto, or during such other full school week as determined
32 by the board of education of the school district.

33 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its

- 1 publication in the statute book.