

HOUSE BILL NO. 293

INTRODUCED BY B. BROWN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE BILL OF RIGHTS TO BE POSTED IN CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES; AND AMENDING SECTION 1-1-540, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 1-1-540, MCA, is amended to read:

**"1-1-540. Display of historical writings or documents in or on public buildings or on state land**

**-- definitions.** (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~(3)~~ (4), a state agency or unit of local government may display the national motto, "in God we trust", as adopted by congress in 1998 (36 U.S.C. 302), in or on public buildings or state-owned land occupied by a state agency or unit of local government. For purposes of this section, the use of the word "God" is not intended to further the establishment of any specific religion or set of religious beliefs or to dissuade the free exercise of any religion or set of religious beliefs.

(2) In addition to the national motto, the legislature encourages the display of other historical documents in or on public buildings and state-owned land, including but not limited to:

- (a) the Declaration of Independence;
- (b) the United States constitution;
- (c) the pledge of allegiance;
- (d) the national anthem;
- (e) the Mayflower Compact;
- (f) the writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the founders and the presidents of the United States;
- (g) writings from United States supreme court decisions;
- (h) organic documents from the precolonial, colonial, revolutionary, federalist, and postfederalist eras;
- (i) acts of the United States congress, including the published text of the Congressional Record;
- (j) United States treaties; and
- (k) any other writings, documents, or proclamations that are permanently displayed in a historic context in the United States capitol.

