

SENATE BILL 2641

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5, Chapter 7 and Title 6, Chapter 54, relative to authorization for local governments to display historical documents.

WHEREAS, certain historical documents, monuments and writings have been recognized to commemorate freedom and the rich history of Tennessee and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Constitution of the great state of Tennessee, and other such historically significant documents are recognized throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Constitution of the great state of Tennessee, and other such historically significant documents are treasures that should be displayed proudly and resolutely in public buildings and on public grounds; now, therefore, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

Section 5-7-115.

Each county is authorized to display, in county public buildings and on county public grounds, replicas of historical documents including, but not limited to, the Ten Commandments, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Constitution of Tennessee, and other such

historically significant documents in the form of statues, monuments, memorials, tablets, or any other display that respects the dignity and solemnity of such documents.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 6, Chapter 54, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section thereto:

Section 6-54-140.

Each city and town is authorized to display, in municipal public buildings and on municipal public grounds, replicas of historical documents including, but not limited to, the Ten Commandments, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Constitution of Tennessee, and other such historically significant documents in the form of statues, monuments, memorials, tablets, or any other display that respects the dignity and solemnity of such documents.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.