**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**H. 3512**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Sandifer and G.R. Smith

Document Path: l:\council\bills\agm\18510ab15.docx

Introduced in the House on February 4, 2015

Introduced in the Senate on May 4, 2015

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Education**

Summary: School districts

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/4/2015 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\02-04-15.docx))

2/4/2015 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\02-04-15.docx))

3/18/2015 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: G.R.Smith

4/23/2015 House Committee report: Majority favorable, minority unfavorable **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 9](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-23-15.docx))

4/29/2015 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 139](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-29-15.docx))

4/29/2015 House Roll call Yeas‑99 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 139](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-29-15.docx))

4/30/2015 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-30-15.docx))

5/4/2015 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\05-04-15.docx))

5/4/2015 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\05-04-15.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3512&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/4/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3512_20150204.docx)

[4/23/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3512_20150423.docx)

COMMITTEE REPORT

April 23, 2015

**H. 3512**

Introduced by Reps. Sandifer and G.R. Smith

S. Printed 4/23/15--H.

Read the first time February 4, 2015.

**THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3512) to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 59‑1‑456 so as to provide a school district may educate students about the holidays, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

Majority favorable. Minority unfavorable.

MERITA A. ALLISON JOHN RICHARD C. KING

For Majority. For Minority.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑1‑456 SO AS TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY EDUCATE STUDENTS ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS OF TRADITIONAL WINTER CELEBRATIONS IN A CERTAIN MANNER, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY DISPLAY CERTAIN SYMBOLS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE HOLIDAYS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY UNLESS THE DISPLAY INCLUDES A MESSAGE THAT ENCOURAGES ADHERENCE TO A PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 1, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑1‑456. (A) A school district may educate students about the history, customs, and symbols of traditional winter celebrations. In conjunction with providing this education, the district also may allow students and district staff to offer traditional greetings regarding the celebrations including, but not limited to:

(1) Happy Hanukkah;

(2) Happy Holidays; and

(3) Merry Christmas.

(B) Except as provided in subsection (C), a school district may display on school property scenes or symbols traditionally associated with traditional winter celebrations including, but not limited to, a menorah, a nativity scene, and a Christmas tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of:

(1) more than one religion associated with the traditional winter celebrations; or

(2) one religion associated with the traditional winter celebrations and one secular scene or symbol, but only if an equal number of each are displayed.

(C) A display relating to a traditional winter celebration must not include a message that encourages adherence to a particular religious belief.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑