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S.B. 34
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

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SUMMARY

- Requires public schools that receive donations to display at least four from a list of nine founding documents in each classroom in which students in any of grades 4-12 are provided instruction in history or social studies.
- Requires schools to determine the amount of funds necessary to comply with the bill's provisions and permits them to accept donated funds or displays.
- Permits a school to erect on any school grounds or premises a monument inscribed with one or more of the documents.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to post on its website materials and information to assist schools in complying with the bill's requirements.
- Names the bill the "Display of Founding Documents of Historic Significance Act."

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Founding document displays

The bill enacts the "Display of Founding Documents of Historic Significance Act" to require each public school (school district, community school, STEM school, and college-preparatory boarding school) that receives donated funds or displays to select to display, in each classroom in which students in any of grades 4-12 are provided instruction in history or social studies, at least four of the following founding documents:

1. The Mayflower Compact;
2. The Declaration of Independence;
3. The Northwest Ordinance;
4. The mottoes of the United States and Ohio;

5. The Ten Commandments;
6. The Magna Carta;
7. The Bill of Rights;
8. The United States Constitution; or
9. The Articles of Confederation.

The bill permits the school governing body to select distinct founding documents to be displayed in each classroom. A school that receives donated funds or displays must comply with the bill's requirement by July 1, 2026.¹

Monuments

The bill permits a public school to erect a monument or other marker inscribed with one or more of the documents on any school ground or premises.² A "school ground or premises" is (1) the parcel of real property on which any school building is situated or (2) any other parcel of real property that is owned or leased by a school governing body and on which some of the instruction, extracurricular activities, or training of the school is conducted.³

Educational purpose

The bill requires each public school to ensure that each display or monument is reasonably visible and accompanied by a description that serves an educational purpose by describing the document's historical importance.⁴

Use of donated funds and displays

The bill's requirements apply only to a public school that receives donated funds or displays. A school must determine the amount of funds or donations required to comply with the bill's requirement and may accept donated funds or donated displays. However, the school is not required to accept funds or donated displays that contain limitations or conditions on acceptance or use.⁵

Duties of the Department of Education and Workforce

The Department of Education and Workforce must post on its website materials and information to assist public schools in complying with the bill's requirements.⁶

¹ R.C. 3313.802(A) and (D), 3314.03, 3326.11, and 3324.24.

² R.C. 3313.802(B).

³ R.C. 3313.753, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3313.802(C).

⁵ R.C. 3313.802(D).

⁶ R.C. 3313.802(E).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-28-25
Reported, S. Education	11-18-25
Passed Senate (23-10)	11-19-25
