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3 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SB18
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8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law does not expressly allow a
9 school district to educate students about the
10 history of traditional winter celebrations and
11 allow students and district staff to offer
12 traditional greetings regarding the celebrations.

13 This bill would permit each school district
14 to educate students about the history of
15 traditional winter celebrations, and expressly
16 permit students and district staff to offer
17 traditional oral or written greetings regarding the
18 celebrations, to wear clothing or other apparel
19 that contain traditional winter celebration
20 greetings, and to conduct or display traditional
21 holiday scenes or symbols, concerts, plays, songs
22 or other social events, as long as such displays or
23 activities do not promote or endorse adherence to a
24 particular religion or religious belief.
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26 A BILL
27 TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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3 To allow school districts to educate students about
4 the history of traditional winter celebrations; to permit
5 students and district staff to offer traditional oral or
6 written greetings regarding the celebrations and to wear
7 clothing or apparel that contain traditional winter
8 celebratory greetings or acknowledgments; and to permit
9 students and district staff to conduct or display traditional
10 holiday scenes or symbols, concerts, plays, songs or other
11 social events, as long as such displays or activities do not
12 promote or endorse adherence to a particular religion or
13 religious belief.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

15 Section 1. (a) Each school district is permitted to
16 educate students about the history of traditional winter
17 celebrations and shall allow students and district staff to
18 offer traditional oral or written greetings regarding the
19 celebrations, including, but not limited to, any of the
20 following:

21 (1) Merry Christmas.

22 (2) Happy Hanukkah.

23 (3) Happy holidays.

24 (b) Each school district shall allow students and
25 district staff, as an educational activity regarding the
26 history of traditional winter celebrations, to organize and
27 otherwise put on traditional holiday activities, such as

1 concerts, plays, songs or other social events, as long as such
2 activities do not promote or endorse adherence to a particular
3 religion or religious belief.

4 (c) A school district may temporarily permit a
5 display on school property of scenes or symbols associated
6 with traditional winter celebrations, including, but not
7 limited to a menorah or a Christmas image such as a nativity
8 scene, a holly wreath, a Christmas tree, a Santa Clause, or a
9 snowman, if the display fairly represents the various aspects
10 of the historical and traditional winter celebrations.

11 (d) An activity provided for by subsection (b) or a
12 display provided for by subsection (c) shall not include a
13 message that encourages or endorses adherence to a particular
14 religion or religious belief.

15 (e) Any school district allowing or putting on an
16 activity provided for by subsection (b) or temporarily
17 displaying or permitting a display as provided for by
18 subsection (c) shall include with the activity or display a
19 disclaimer that such activity or display is not intended to
20 represent an endorsement of any particular religion or
21 religious belief by the school district.

22 (f) As used herein, the term "school district" shall
23 include any public school within a school district.

24 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
25 first day of the third month following its passage and
26 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.