

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 48

2 45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Shirley M Bailey

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW AND APPROVE  
12 *THE BIBLE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS: A FIRST AMENDMENT GUIDE* AND OTHER  
13 SIMILAR GUIDEBOOKS AS STATE-APPROVED TEXTBOOKS.

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15 WHEREAS, the supreme court has emphasized that it is  
16 permissible, even desirable, to teach *The Holy Bible* in public  
17 schools, providing the subject matter is presented objectively  
18 as part of a secular program of education; and

19 WHEREAS, students should be exposed to a variety of  
20 religious and secular biblical interpretations and  
21 translations; and

22 WHEREAS, the study of religion must be educational, not  
23 devotional; and

24 WHEREAS, such a course of study would not be required, but  
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underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 rather a curriculum elective taught from a literary, cultural  
2 or historical perspective;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education review  
5 and approve *The Bible and Public Schools: A First Amendment*  
6 *Guide* and other similar guidebooks written to help public  
7 schools throughout the state achieve greater understanding of  
8 the Bible as both a reference book and as literature; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education  
10 report to the legislative education study committee no later  
11 than November 1, 2001 about the review and recommendation for  
12 approval of such guidebooks as state-approved textbooks; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the state board of education, the legislative  
15 education study committee and the superintendent of public  
16 instruction for appropriate distribution to local school board  
17 members, local superintendents, principals and teachers  
18 statewide.

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