

AMENDMENTS TO LB306

Introduced by Lippincott, 34.

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 **Sec. 9.** (1) For purposes of this section:

3 (a) Core curriculum instruction time means the time during which a
4 student is scheduled to receive instruction in the fundamental academic
5 subjects of reading, English language arts, mathematics, science, and
6 social studies;

7 (b) Educational decisionmaker has the same meaning as in section
8 79-530;

9 (c) Released time course means a course in religious instruction,
10 taught by a sponsoring entity, during which a student is excused from
11 public school to attend;

12 (d) School district has the same meaning as in section 79-101;

13 (e) Secular evaluation criteria includes, but is not limited to:

14 (i) The number of hours of classroom instruction;

15 (ii) A review of the course syllabus that reflects course
16 requirements and materials used;

17 (iii) The methods of student assessment used in the course; and

18 (iv) The qualifications of the course instructor; and

19 (f) Sponsoring entity means a private entity that offers students an
20 elective course in religious instruction pursuant to this section.

21 (2) A school district may adopt a policy that excuses any student of
22 such school district to attend a released time course for at least one
23 class period per week. Such policy shall require:

24 (a) The parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of the
25 student to provide written consent for the student to attend the released
26 time course;

27 (b) The sponsoring entity to maintain attendance records and make

1 such records available to the school district the student attends;

2 (c) The sponsoring entity, parent, guardian, or educational
3 decisionmaker to provide transportation to and from the place of
4 instruction;

5 (d) The sponsoring entity to make provision and assume liability for
6 each student that attends its released time course while under the
7 control of the sponsoring entity;

8 (e) No school district funds to be expended other than de minimis
9 administrative costs;

10 (f) A released time course not be scheduled during a student's core
11 curriculum instruction time, and that each released time course be no
12 less than forty-two and no more than one hundred twenty consecutive
13 minutes in length; and

14 (g) A released time course not to be held on school district
15 property unless permitted under a neutral policy of equal access that
16 opens school district property for use by community groups.

17 (3) For any period of time a student is excused from a school
18 district to attend a released time course in accordance with this
19 section, such student shall be considered as attending the school from
20 which such student is excused for the purpose of determining school
21 funding and satisfying attendance requirements.

22 (4) A school district may adopt a policy that awards academic credit
23 for the completion of a released time course. In determining the amount
24 of credit to award for completion of such a course, the school district
25 shall evaluate the course based on purely secular criteria that are
26 substantially the same criteria used to evaluate similar courses. The
27 decision to award credit for a released time course shall be neutral to,
28 and shall not involve any test for, religious content or denominational
29 affiliation.

30 (5) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to deny a released
31 time course or the sponsoring entity equal access to funds, benefits, or

1 services that the school district may provide or make available to
2 community groups or other independent entities.

3 **Sec. 10.** Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 of this act become
4 operative three calendar months after the adjournment of this legislative
5 session. The other sections of this act become operative on their
6 effective date.

7 **Sec. 12.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
8 passed and approved according to law.

9 2. Renumber the remaining section accordingly.