

Wyoming Liberty Index

62nd Wyoming Legislature ★ 2014 Budget Session

HB0077, Student religious liberties.

Sponsors: Representative(s) Kroeker, Baker, Hutchings, Jaggi, McKim, Miller, Reeder, Watt and Winters and Senator(s) Cooper and Nutting

Comments

Much of this is already covered by the First Amendment and the Wyoming Constitution's analog. None the less, it is worth it to set an explicit liberal (in the original sense) state-wide policy. Apparently school boards aren't always in the habit of reading the Bill of Rights before they take votes.

N: No significant fiscal or personnel impact at the state level. Definitely a step in the right direction, albeit sad that something that should be common-sensical under the Constitution seems to need to be codified. That said, it is too narrow in its scope. As written, it only protects the expression of religious viewpoints. This should be written to address both freedom of speech and religion! This bill should protect the expression of ANY opinion whether it is based in fact (scientific or historical), or faith (religious, philosophical or pseudo-scientific), or a combination of fact and faith. If we cannot discuss our opinions and the problems that the differences thereto occasion, we will NEVER solve those problems—they will only fester until frustration rises to the point of detonation. Rather than being built around religious freedom, "tolerance" and "respect" might have been better keywords to build build this bill around. Governmental centralization is always inimical to Liberty. Ignoring the provisions of the Constitutions of the USA or of the State of Wyoming almost always promotes the centralization of governmental power and damages Liberty.

Weighted Rating: 2.00. Unweighted Rating: 1.00.

Categories

Education, Individual Rights, and Spirit and Letter of Founding Documents

For more information on the categories:

<http://wyominglibertyindex.info/2014/methodology.html#thecategories>

Document Status

Final