



CHAIRMAN ROB EISSLER  
HOUSE DISTRICT 15

OK for Discretion  
[Signature]  
HB 1287  
Kg. R. Eissler

**To: Concerned Constituents**

**Date: May 8, 2007**

**From: Chairman Rob Eissler  
House Public Education Committee**

**Re: Explanation of Committee Amendments for HB 1287**

This bill was heard by the Public Education Committee not once, as is customary, but an unprecedented three times; three different days and times. The Committee heard from Biblical Scholars, Constitutional Scholars and representatives from the Jewish, Catholic, Muslim and Protestant faiths.

Once the committee heard the testimony several amendments were added to ensure the proposed course Bible was academically sound. The Bible Course would be an elective course - an enrichment course and would need to meet the same criteria as *music, foreign language, etc.*

- Requiring that the course be taught by qualified teachers
- Ensuring that the textbooks used for the course will be academically sound
- Ensuring that school districts will have curriculum standards to follow;
- Protecting the religious freedom of all students
- Providing for training in the First Amendment and issues of religious freedom for all teachers of these courses
- Respecting local control by giving school districts the right to decide whether and how often these courses will be taught

**After amending the bill the committee unanimously voted to recommend this version to the Full House.**

The House does not have to be divided over the Bible or over religion, but can feel secure that the proposed Bible course will be taught to the same respect and standards given to other courses taught in our public schools.