



Legislation Text

File #: Res 1179-2000, **Version:** *

Res. No. 1179

Resolution calling upon the New York City Board of Education to ensure that comparative religious traditions is offered as an elective course of study in all New York City public high schools.

By Council Members Foster, Clarke, Henry, Watkins, White; also Council Members McCaffrey and Abel.

Whereas, Religious traditions have had a significant impact throughout time on literature, history and culture; and
Whereas, Because of the significant impact that religious traditions have had in shaping our world, such traditions, beliefs and sacred writings should be taught to students in a non-sectarian, academic setting; and
Whereas, According to a November 26, 1999 article entitled "Rallying Behind Religion" in The Jewish Week, a coalition of thirty-five religious organizations and First Amendment protection groups has given its support to "The Bible & Public Schools: A First Amendment Guide," which offers guidelines on how to legally teach the Bible in public schools; and
Whereas, The Guide, footnoted by more than a dozen court decisions, provides lesson plans, neutral texts, resources and legal precedents in order to enable public schools to treat all religions and religious convictions with respect; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York City Board of Education to ensure that comparative religious traditions is offered as an elective course of study in all New York City public high schools.
Referred to the Committee on Education.

HG:ts
LS#2482
2/1/00