By Senators Dial, Waggoner, Glover, Allen, Whatley, Holley, McGill, Fielding, Brewbaker, Scofield, Williams, Reed, Marsh and Pittman (Constitutional Amendment)

RFD: Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics, and Elections

First Read: 05-FEB-13

PFD: 01/09/2013
A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, providing for certain religious rights and liberties; authorizing the display of historically significant documents on state property and property owned or administrated by a public school or public body; prohibiting the expenditure of public funds in defense of the constitutionality of this amendment; and specifying an election date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, is proposed and shall become valid as a part thereof when approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon and in accordance with Sections 284, 285, and 287 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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Every person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience. No person shall be compelled to attend, or, against his or her consent, to contribute to the erection or support of any place of religious worship, or to pay tithes, taxes, or other rates for the support of any minister of the gospel. Property belonging to the state may be used for historically significant displays which reflect the foundations of the rule of law in America, notwithstanding that such displays may also have religious significance, and the right of a public school and public body to display such displays on property owned or administrated by a public school or public body in this state is not restrained or abridged provided that the display is consistent with a policy approved by the governing authority of the public school or public body. The civil and political rights, privileges, and capacities of no person shall be diminished or enlarged on account of his or her religious belief. No public funds may be expended in defense of the constitutionality of this amendment.

Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections 284 and 285 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, and the election laws of this state.

Section 3. The appropriate election official shall assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional
amendment on the election ballot and shall set forth the
following description of the substance or subject matter of
the proposed constitutional amendment:

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
Alabama of 1901, providing for certain religious rights and
liberties; authorizing the display of historically significant
documents on state property and property owned or
administrated by a public school or public body; and
prohibiting the expenditure of public funds in defense of the
constitutionality of this amendment.

"Proposed by Act ________ ."

This description shall be followed by the following
language:

"Yes ( ) No ( ) ."
 senate

read for the first time and referred to the senate committee on constitution, campaign finance, ethics, and elections........................................ 05-feb-13

read for the second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment................................. 14-feb-13

read for the third time and passed as amended .... 26-feb-13

yeas 23
nays 1

patrick harris
secretary