

To safeguard our religious liberties.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

Mr. PICKERING introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL
To safeguard our religious liberties.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the ``Safeguarding Our Reli-
5 gious Liberties Act''.
6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds the following:
8 (1) The Declaration of Independence declares
9 that governments are instituted to secure certain
10 unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the
11 pursuit of happiness, with which all human beings

2
1 are endowed by their Creator and to which they are
2 entitled by the laws of nature and of nature's God.

3 (2) The organic laws of the United States Code
4 and the constitutions of every State, using various
5 expressions, recognize God as the source of the
6 blessings of liberty.

7 (3) The first amendment to the Constitution se-
8 cures rights against laws respecting an establish-
9 ment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise
10 thereof made by the Federal Government.

11 (4) The rights secured under the first amend-
12 ment have been interpreted by the Federal courts to
13 be included among the provisions of the 14th
14 amendment.

15 (5) The 10th amendment reserves to the States,
16 respectively, the powers not delegated to the Federal
17 Government nor prohibited to the States.

18 (6) Disputes and doubts have arisen with re-
19 spect to public displays of the Ten Commandments
20 and to other public expression of religious faith.

21 (7) Section 5 of the 14th amendment grants

22 Congress the power to enforce the provisions of the
23 14th amendment.
24 (8) Article III, section 2 of the Constitution
25 grants Congress the authority to except certain mat-

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1 ters from the jurisdiction of the Federal courts infe-
2 rior to the Supreme Court.

3 SEC. 3. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RIGHTS DECLARED.

4 (a) DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS.--The power

5 to display the Ten Commandments on or within property
6 owned or administered by the several States or political
7 subdivisions of such States is among the powers reserved
8 to the States, respectively.

9 (b) WORD ``GOD'' IN PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.--The
10 power to recite the Pledge of Allegiance on or within prop-
11 erty owned or administered by the several States or polit-
12 ical subdivisions of such States is among the powers re-
13 served to the States, respectively. The Pledge of Allegiance
14 shall be, ``I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United
15 States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands,
16 one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and justice
17 for all.''.
18

19 (c) MOTTO ``IN GOD WE TRUST''.--The power to re-
20 cite the national motto on or within property owned or
21 administered by the several States or political subdivisions
22 of such States is among the powers reserved to the States,
23 respectively. The national motto shall be, ``In God we
24 trust''.

24 (d) EXERCISE OF CONGRESSIONAL POWER TO EX -

25 CEPT.--The subject matter of subsections (a), (b), and (c)

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1 are excepted from the jurisdiction of Federal courts infe-
2 rior to the Supreme Court.

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