

1 H BILL NO. 315  
 2 INTRODUCED BY Dawson League O'Connell Courtney  
 3 Conroy Kenny Ryan Day Bengtson Menckel

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ALLOW TRUSTEES OF  
 5 ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE FOR A  
 6 RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION RELEASED TIME PROGRAM; AMENDING  
 7 SECTION 75-7403, R.C.M. 1947."

8  
 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Section 75-7403, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to  
 11 read as follows:

12 "75-7403. School day and week. Subject to [section  
 13 2], a school day of pupil instruction shall be at least two  
 14 (2) hours for kindergartens and all other preschool  
 15 programs, unless a variance has been granted by the  
 16 superintendent of public instruction in accordance with the  
 17 policies of the board of public education, at least four (4)  
 18 hours for grades one (1) through three (3), and at least six  
 19 (6) hours for grades four (4) through twelve (12). The  
 20 number of hours in any one school day for grades four (4)  
 21 through twelve (12) may be reduced by one (1) hour if the  
 22 total number of hours in the school week is not less than  
 23 thirty (30) hours. The number of hours in a school week may  
 24 be reduced, in an emergency, with the approval of the board  
 25 of public education."

1 Section 2. There is a new R.C.M. section that reads as  
 2 follows:

3 Religious instruction released time program. (1) The  
 4 trustees of an elementary or high school district may  
 5 provide for a religious instruction released time program  
 6 under which a pupil may be released from regular school  
 7 attendance for a period not to exceed 2 hours per week for  
 8 the purpose of receiving religious instruction upon written  
 9 request, renewed at least annually, of the pupil's parent or  
 10 guardian.

11 (2) No religious instruction released time program may  
 12 be established or administered in such a way that public  
 13 school property is utilized for the purpose of religious  
 14 instruction.

15 (3) No public moneys may be used, directly or  
 16 indirectly, for such religious instruction.

17 (4) Any period for which a pupil is released under a  
 18 religious instruction released time program is part of the  
 19 school day and week for purposes of 75-6304, 75-6902,  
 20 75-7402, 75-7403, and all other provisions of Title 75, and  
 21 such release may not adversely affect the pupil's attendance  
 22 record.

-End-

Approved by Committee  
on Education

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3 Conroy, Kenny, Ryan, Dwy, Bengtson, Menchak

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-End-

SECOND READING

*HB 315*

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 3 Conroy, Kenny, Ryan, Day, Bentley, Menckel  
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*HB 315*

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 315

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3 CONROY, KENNY, RYAN, DAY, BENGTSON, MENAHAN

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