

# Senate Bill 10 Explained

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## Official Bill Caption

Relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

## What it Does

SB 10 directs all public elementary, middle, and high schools to display the Ten Commandments in every classroom, with typeface that is legible from anywhere in the classroom. It must contain the specific wording of the Ten Commandments set out in the bill, and only that wording, on durable posters or framed copies at least 16 inches wide by 20 inches tall.

A school lacking such displays in every classroom can use taxpayer funds to purchase them, or they are obligated to accept and display privately donated posters or framed copies that meet the bill's criteria. The Attorney General must defend any school that is sued for complying with SB 10, and the state will be liable for related expenses of such lawsuits. The bill takes effect September 1, 2025.

## Why it Matters

Placing the Ten Commandments in classrooms favors one religious tradition over all others and sends a message to individuals of different faiths or no faith that they are less valued. Texans who learn or work in public schools will be most directly affected, but all Texans suffer when state governments—not parents—are in charge of guiding a child's religious instruction. Similarly, all Texans will pay the price if the state is sued for the violation of religious freedom inherent in this mandate.

## What's Next

Families in Louisiana, with the help of the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Freedom From Religion Foundation, and others, sued their state over its version of SB 10. On June 20, 2025, federal appeals court judges deemed the law unconstitutional.

Attorneys representing Louisiana have vowed to appeal to the Supreme Court, if necessary. Similar litigation is pending in Arkansas, and the ACLU announced in May 2025 that it would challenge SB 10 through the Texas court system.

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