

**House File 2370 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2370

BY SHERMAN, HAYES, JENEARY,  
M. THOMPSON, STOLTENBERG,  
OSMUNDSON, CISNEROS, and  
DIEKEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to Satanic displays or Satanic worship on  
2 property of the state and its political subdivisions.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 27D.1 Satanic displays or the  
2 practice of Satanism on state property.

3 1. The state or any political subdivision of the state shall  
4 not recognize organizations or individuals who refer to Satan  
5 as a deity, worship Satan, or who reference Satan or Satanism  
6 as part of the organization's or individual's religious  
7 practice as an establishment of religion.

8 2. Displays, symbols, or the practice of Satanic worship  
9 shall not be allowed on public property, in public schools, on  
10 property owned by public schools, or on any property owned by  
11 the state or any of its political subdivisions.

12 3. Any act of Satanic practice or worship that involves  
13 the ending of a life or the shedding of blood, whether the  
14 sacrifice be an animal or human, is prohibited.

15 4. A violation of subsection 2 or 3 is a criminal offense  
16 subject to prosecution under the laws of the state.

17 Sec. 2. PUBLIC DISPLAYS — SATANISM — LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS  
18 AND PURPOSE.

19 1. The general assembly finds that the Constitution of the  
20 State of Iowa acknowledges the supreme being to whom we owe  
21 gratitude for blessings received and upon whom we depend for  
22 future blessings.

23 2. The general assembly finds that there is a wide  
24 range of differing views among its citizens regarding which  
25 establishment of religion or religions represent the one  
26 supreme being upon which we depend. Though a long line of  
27 historical evidence exists showing that the values found in the  
28 Judeo-Christian faith are fundamental to the foundations and  
29 freedoms of the United States of America, the state of Iowa,  
30 in accordance with the long-established history, heritage, and  
31 tradition of the United States, does not grant favored status  
32 to any establishment of religion as the official religion of  
33 the state of Iowa.

34 3. The general assembly finds that good and evil exist. The  
35 supreme being, upon whom we depend for continued blessings,

1 personifies that which is good. Evil is personified in the  
2 creature known as Satan. It is the duty of the government to  
3 play an appropriate role in protecting the inhabitant residents  
4 of Iowa from evil while encouraging and facilitating good. It  
5 is legally and constitutionally inconsistent to afford Satan,  
6 who is universally understood to be an enemy of God, religious  
7 expression on public property by a state government that  
8 depends upon God for continued blessings. Such a legal view  
9 violates our state constitution and offends the God upon whom  
10 we depend and undermines our well-being.

11 4. The general assembly finds that all people have freedom  
12 of conscience. The state of Iowa does not recommend Satanic  
13 practice in any form; however, the state of Iowa acknowledges  
14 that individuals are free under the Constitution of the State  
15 of Iowa to practice Satanic worship in their private thoughts  
16 and on their private property in ways that do not violate any  
17 Iowa law or harm or infringe on others.

18 EXPLANATION

19 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
20 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

21 This bill relates to Satanic displays or Satanic worship on  
22 property of the state and its political subdivisions.

23 The bill provides that the state or any political  
24 subdivision of the state shall not recognize organizations  
25 or individuals who refer to Satan as a deity, worship  
26 Satan, or who reference Satan or Satanism as part of the  
27 organization's or individual's religious practice as an  
28 establishment of religion. Displays, symbols, or the practice  
29 of Satanic worship shall not be allowed on public property,  
30 in public schools, on property owned by public schools, or  
31 on any property owned by the state or any of its political  
32 subdivisions. Any act of Satanic practice or worship that  
33 involves the ending of a life or the shedding of blood, whether  
34 the sacrifice be an animal or human, is prohibited.

35 The bill provides that a violation of the bill is a criminal

1 offense subject to prosecution under the laws of the state.

2 The bill makes legislative findings concerning the religion

3 and the practice of Satanism.