

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3895

To defend the Ten Commandments.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2002

Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. GOODE, Mr. TERRY, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. CRANE, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BUYER, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. DELAY, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PICKERING, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. KERNS, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. HART, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. WAMP, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BONILLA, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. BARR of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To defend the Ten Commandments.

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 “Ten Commandments  
5 Defense Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Declaration of Independence declares  
4 that governments are instituted to secure certain  
5 unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the  
6 pursuit of happiness, with which all human beings  
7 are endowed by their Creator and to which they are  
8 entitled by the laws of nature and of nature's God.

9 (2) The organic laws of the United States Code  
10 and the constitutions of every State, using various  
11 expressions, recognize God as the source of the  
12 blessings of liberty.

13 (3) The First Amendment to the Constitution  
14 of the United States secures rights against laws re-  
15 specting an establishment of religion or prohibiting  
16 the free exercise thereof made by the United States  
17 Government.

18 (4) The rights secured under the first amend-  
19 ment have been interpreted by courts of the United  
20 States Government to be included among the provi-  
21 sions of the fourteenth amendment.

22 (5) The tenth amendment reserves to the States  
23 respectively the powers not delegated to the United  
24 States Government nor prohibited to the States.

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

4           (7) Section 5 of the fourteenth amendment  
5       grants the Congress power to enforce the provisions  
6       of the said amendment.

7           (8) Article I, section 8, grants the Congress  
8       power to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme  
9       Court, and article III, section 1, grants the Congress  
10      power to ordain and establish courts in which the ju-  
11      dicial power of the United States Government shall  
12      be vested.

13 **SEC. 3. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RIGHTS DECLARED.**

14       (a) DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS.—The power  
15   to display the Ten Commandments on or within property  
16   owned or administered by the several States or political  
17   subdivisions thereof is hereby declared to be among the  
18   powers reserved to the States respectively.

19       (b) EXPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS FAITH.—The expres-  
20   sion of religious faith by individual persons on or within  
21   property owned or administered by the several States or  
22   political subdivisions thereof is hereby—

23           (1) declared to be among the rights secured  
24       against laws respecting an establishment of religion  
25       or prohibiting the free exercise of religion made or

1       enforced by the United States Government or by any  
2       department or executive or judicial officer thereof;  
3       and

4           (2) declared to be among the liberties of which  
5       no State shall deprive any person without due proc-  
6       ess of law made in pursuance of powers reserved to  
7       the States respectively.

8       (c) EXERCISE OF JUDICIAL POWER.—The courts  
9       constituted, ordained, and established by the Congress  
10      shall exercise the judicial power in a manner consistent  
11      with the foregoing declarations.

○