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(Wyo.)- Senate Panel Endorses Biblical Study Courses



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/15/2013 06:45 AM

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - A bill that would make it clear Wyoming public high schools can offer elective biblical study courses has been endorsed by a divided Senate Education Committee.

The panel voted 3-2 in favor of House Bill 130. The bill now goes to the Senate floor for consideration.

Republican Rep. Stephen Watt, of Rock Springs, says his proposal maintains religious neutrality by not advocating for or against any particular religion.

However, several people spoke against the bill, saying it is unnecessary because biblical study is already allowed and possibly unconstitutional because books from others faiths are not included in the proposal.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled several times that public schools can offer classes about the Bible but can't use it for devotional purposes.