

THE BLAINE AMENDMENT
(proposed and rejected in 1876)

House Version

(passed by 2/3 vote with 180 in favor, 7 against, 98 not voting)

“No State shall make any laws respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; and no money raised by taxation in any State for the support of public schools, or derived from any public fund therefor, nor any public lands devoted thereto, shall ever be under the control of any religious sect, nor shall any money so raised or lands so devoted be divided between religious sects or denominations.” ANSON P. STOKES & LEO PFEFFER, CHURCH AND STATE IN THE UNITED STATES 434 (1964) (quoting 44th Cong., 1st Sess., CONG. REC. 205 (1876)).

Senate Version

(failed to garner 2/3 with 28 in favor, 16 against, 27 absent or not voting)

“No State shall make any law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; and no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under any State. No public property and no public revenue of, nor any loan of credit by or under the authority of, the United States, or any State, Territory, District, or municipal corporation, shall be appropriated to or made or used for the support of any school, educational or other institution under the control of any religious or anti-religious sect, organization, or denomination, or wherein the particular creed or tenets of any religious or anti-religious sect, organization, or denomination shall be taught. And no such particular creed or tenets shall be read or taught in any school or institution supported in whole or in part by such revenue or loan of credit; and no such appropriation or loan of credit shall be made to any religious or anti-religious sect, organization, or denomination, or to promote its interests or tenets. This article shall not be construed to prohibit the reading of the Bible in any school or institution; and it shall not have the effect to impair rights or property already vested.” ANSON P. STOKES & LEO PFEFFER, CHURCH AND STATE IN THE UNITED

STATES 434 (1964) (quoting 44th Cong., 1st Sess., CONG. REC. 5453, 5595 (1876)).