

As Passed by the House

124th General Assembly

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Am. Sub. H. B. No. 394

REPRESENTATIVES Damschroder, Barrett, Calvert, Carey, Collier, Flowers, Hoops, Jolivette, Key, Latell, Latta, Lendrum, Metzger, Niehaus, Otterman, Patton, Roman, Schmidt, Seaver, Seitz, Setzer, Webster, White, Young, Callender, Reinhard, Fedor, Reidelbach, Faber, Aslanides, Manning, McGregor, Wolpert, Hughes, G. Smith, Olman, Gilb, Clancy, Carmichael, Hagan, Willamowski, Grendell, Kearns, Core, Fessler, Widowfield, Husted, Williams, DeWine, Schaffer, Raga, Schneider, Schuring, Evans, Buehrer, Distel, Cirelli, Peterson, Coates, Ogg, Rhine, Krupinski, Allen

A BILL

To amend sections 3313.601 and 3313.602 of the Revised Code to direct the board of education of each school district to require all students to observe a minute of silence each school day for prayer, reflection, or meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme, and to require school district boards of education to set aside a period of time each day for the oral recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3313.601 and 3313.602 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3313.601. ~~No~~ (A) The board of education of each school district shall provide for a minute of silence each school day

with participation of all students for prayer, reflection, or 14
meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No 15
teacher shall select or determine the theme for the daily minute 16
of silence. 17

(B) No board of education shall prohibit a classroom teacher 18
from providing in his ~~the teacher's~~ classroom reasonable periods 19
of time, in addition to the period of time set aside under 20
division (A) of this section, for ~~programs or meditation upon~~ 21
activities of a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No pupil 22
shall be required to participate in ~~such programs or meditations~~ 23
activities under this division if they are contrary to the 24
religious convictions of the pupil or his the pupil's parents or 25
guardians. 26

(C) With respect to the period of time set aside under 27
division (A) of this section, no board of education of a school 28
district shall adopt any policy or rule respecting or promoting an 29
establishment of religion or prohibiting any pupil from the free, 30
individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the pupil's 31
religious beliefs. 32

Sec. 3313.602. (A) The board of education of each city, 33
local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district 34
shall adopt a policy ~~specifying whether or not~~ requiring that a 35
period of time be set aside each school day for the oral 36
recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the flag shall be as a 37
part of the school's program and, ~~if so,~~ establishing a time and 38
manner for such the recitation. The policy adopted under this 39
division shall not require any student to participate in the 40
recitation and shall prohibit the intimidation of any student by 41
other students or staff aimed at coercing participation. 42

(B) In the development of its graded course of study, the 43
board of education of each city and exempted village school 44

district and the governing board of each educational service
center shall ensure that the principles of democracy and ethics
are emphasized and discussed wherever appropriate in all parts of
the curriculum for grades kindergarten through twelve.

(C) Each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational
school board shall adopt policies that encourage all certificated
and noncertificated employees to be cognizant of their roles in
instilling ethical principles and democratic ideals in all
district pupils.

(D) The board of education of each city, local, joint
vocational, chartered community, and exempted village school
district, and the Cleveland Scholarship scholarship and ~~Tutoring
Program~~ tutoring program, shall require each district school to
devote time on or about Veterans' day to an observance that
conveys the meaning and significance of that day. The amount of
time each school devotes to this observance shall be at least one
hour or, in schools that schedule class periods of less than one
hour, at least one standard class period. The board shall
determine the specific activities to constitute the observance in
each school in the district after consultation with the school's
administrators.

Section 2. That existing sections 3313.601 and 3313.602 of
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.