

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1656

By: Rice

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Sections 11-101 and 11-101.1, which relate to school prayer; modifying exceptions to certain authorized activities; authorizing the conduct of certain periods of quiet reflection; stating intent; prohibiting certain activities; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-101, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-101. No sectarian or religious doctrine shall be taught or inculcated in any of the public schools of this state, but nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit ~~the reading of the Holy Scriptures~~ student-initiated voluntary school prayers which are nonsectarian and nonproselytizing in nature at school or school-related events.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-101.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-101.1 ~~The board of education of each school district shall permit those students and teachers who wish to do so to participate in voluntary prayer~~ A. If so authorized by the board of

education of a school district, at the opening of school upon every school day in each public school classroom in that school district, the teacher in charge shall conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than sixty (60) seconds with the participation of all the students therein assembled.

B. The moment of quiet reflection authorized by subsection A of this section is not intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise, but shall be considered as an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day.

C. Nothing in this ~~act~~ section shall be construed to be in conflict with Section 11-101 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

45-1-5293

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