

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE BILL 1264

By: Coffee of the Senate

and

Cargill of the House

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; stating purpose; requiring each school board to establish a one-minute daily observance of silence; stating certain duties of teachers; requiring Attorney General to provide legal defense; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-101.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In order that the right of every pupil to the free exercise of religion be guaranteed within the schools and that the freedom of each individual pupil be subject to the least possible pressure from the state either to engage in, or to refrain from, religious observation on school grounds, the school board of each school district shall establish the daily observance of one (1) minute of silence in each classroom of the district.

During such one-minute period of silence, the teacher responsible for each classroom shall take care that all pupils remain seated and silent and make no distracting display to the end that each pupil may, in the exercise of individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice.

The Office of the Attorney General shall intervene and shall provide legal defense of this law.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2002.

SECTION 3. 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.

48-2-2822

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