

SENATE CHAMBER

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

DISPOSITION BY SENATE

FLOOR AMENDMENT

No. _____

(Date)

Mr./Madame President:

I move to amend House Bill No. 2633, Page 1, Line 16 1/2, by inserting new SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to read as per attached, by renumbering subsequent sections, and by amending the title to conform.

Submitted by:

Senator Williamson

1 “SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes
2 as Section 27-101 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

3 Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the “Religious Viewpoints
4 Antidiscrimination Act”.

5 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes
6 as Section 27-102 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 A school district shall treat the voluntary expression by a student of a religious viewpoint, if
8 any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the district treats the voluntary
9 expression by a student of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may
10 not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an
11 otherwise permissible subject.

12 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes
13 as Section 27-103 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and
15 oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions.
16 Homework and classroom assignments shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance
17 and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school district.
18 Students shall not be penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work.

19 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes
20 as Section 27-104 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, "see you at the pole" gatherings, or
22 other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are
23 permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. Religious groups shall be
24 given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups
25 without discrimination based on the religious content of the student expression. If student groups

1 that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce meetings of the groups,
2 the school district shall not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer or other religious
3 speech. A school district may disclaim school sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a
4 manner that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in prayer or religious speech.

5 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes
6 as Section 27-105 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 Each school district in the state shall adopt and implement a local policy regarding a limited
8 public forum and voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints. If a school district
9 voluntarily adopts and follows the model policy governing voluntary religious expression in public
10 schools as provided by Section 6 of this act, the district shall be in compliance with the provisions of
11 the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act covered by the model policy.

12 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes
13 as Section 27-106 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 This section sets forth the provisions of the Model Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination
15 Policy. As used in the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act, "model policy" means a policy
16 adopted by a school district in the state that is substantially identical to the following:

17 MODEL RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINTS ANTIDISCRIMINATION POLICY

18 ARTICLE I. STUDENT EXPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINTS

19 The school district shall treat the voluntary expression by a student of a religious viewpoint, if
20 any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the district treats the voluntary
21 expression by a student of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may
22 not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an
23 otherwise permissible subject.

24 ARTICLE II. RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1 Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and
2 oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of the submission by the
3 student. Homework and classroom work shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of
4 substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school.
5 Students shall not be penalized or rewarded on account of religious content. If the assignment given
6 by a teacher involves writing a poem, the work of a student who submits a poem in the form of a
7 prayer, for example, a psalm, should be judged on the basis of academic standards, including literary
8 quality, and not penalized or rewarded on account of its religious content.

9 ARTICLE III. FREEDOM TO ORGANIZE RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

10 Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, "see you at the pole" gatherings, and
11 other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are
12 permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. Religious groups shall be
13 given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups,
14 without discrimination based on the religious content of the expression of the group. If student
15 groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce the group
16 meetings, for example, by advertising in a student newspaper, putting up posters, making
17 announcements on a student activities bulletin board or public address system, or handing out
18 leaflets, school authorities shall not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer or other
19 religious speech. School authorities may disclaim sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events,
20 provided they administer the disclaimer in a manner that does not favor or disfavor groups that meet
21 to engage in prayer or other religious speech.”