

BILL SUMMARY

MEASURE: HB 2211

AUTHOR: Kern

SUBJECT: Schools - Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act

PROVISIONS: Section 1: NEW LAW. The committee sub for HB 2211 creates the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act.

Section 2: NEW LAW. Directs school districts to treat students who voluntarily express religious viewpoints on permissible subjects the same as students who voluntarily express secular viewpoints on permissible subjects. The bill prohibits the school district from discriminating against a student to expresses a religious viewpoint on a otherwise permissible subject.

Section 3: NEW LAW. Directs school districts to adopt a policy that establishes a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak and also a policy regarding voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints. The policy regarding the forum must require the school district to:

- Provide the forum in a manner that doesn't discriminate against students who voluntarily express religious viewpoints on permissible subjects.
- Provide a method for selection of student speakers at school events and graduation ceremonies.
- Ensure that a student does not engage in obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent speech.
- State in writing and/or orally that the speech doesn't reflect the position of the school district

Section 4: NEW LAW. Prohibits discrimination of students who express their beliefs about religion in their schoolwork. Prohibits students from being penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work.

Section 5: NEW LAW. Directs school districts to grant religious groups the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups without discrimination based on the religious content of student expression.

Section 6: NEW LAW. Directs school districts to adopt and implement a local policy regarding a limited public forum and voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints. If a school district voluntarily adopts the model policy governing voluntary religious expression in public schools as provided by Section 7, the district will be in compliance with the provisions of the Act

Section 7: NEW LAW. Provides a model policy for the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act.

EFFECTIVE

DATE: July 1, 2008

PREPARED BY: Michael Hirlinger

DATE: 3/11/08