

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB1001 _____
Of the printed Bill
Page _____ Section _____ Lines _____
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Amendment submitted by: Mike Reynolds _____

Adopted: _____

Reading Clerk

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 PROPOSED COMMITTEE
4 SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1001

By: Reynolds

7 PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; creating the Religious
9 Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act; requiring school
10 districts to treat student expression in certain
11 manner; allowing student religious expression in
12 class assignments; specifying standards for judging
13 homework and classroom assignments; allowing students
14 to organize religious groups and activities;
15 specifying treatment of religious groups; allowing
16 school districts to disclaim school sponsorship of
17 student groups; requiring school districts to adopt
18 and implement a limited public forum and voluntary
19 student expression of religious viewpoints policy;
20 specifying that school districts adopting the model
21 policy are compliant with the act; setting forth the
22 Model Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Policy;
23 defining term; providing for student expression of
24 religious viewpoints; providing for religious
expression in class assignments; requiring homework
and classroom work to be judged on certain standard;
providing for the freedom to organize religious
groups and activities; specifying treatment of
religious groups; allowing school districts to
disclaim sponsorship of groups and events; providing
for codification; providing an effective date; and
declaring an emergency.

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

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

4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Religious
5 Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act".

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

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

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

19 Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework,
20 artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from
21 discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions.
22 Homework and classroom assignments shall be judged by ordinary
23 academic standards of substance and relevance and against other
24 legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school district.

1 Students shall not be penalized or rewarded on account of the
2 religious content of their work.

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

6 Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, "see you
7 at the pole" gatherings, or other religious gatherings before,
8 during, and after school to the same extent that students are
9 permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and
10 groups. Religious groups shall be given the same access to school
11 facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups
12 without discrimination based on the religious content of the student
13 expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities
14 are permitted to advertise or announce meetings of the groups, the
15 school district shall not discriminate against groups that meet for
16 prayer or other religious speech. A school district may disclaim
17 school sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a manner
18 that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in
19 prayer or religious speech.

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

23 Each school district in the state shall adopt and implement a
24 local policy regarding a limited public forum and voluntary student

1 expression of religious viewpoints. If a school district
2 voluntarily adopts and follows the model policy governing voluntary
3 religious expression in public schools as provided by Section 6 of
4 this act, the district shall be in compliance with the provisions of
5 the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act covered by the model
6 policy.

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

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

15 ARTICLE I. STUDENT EXPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINTS

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

23 ARTICLE II. RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

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

13 ARTICLE III. FREEDOM TO ORGANIZE RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

14 Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, "see you
15 at the pole" gatherings, and other religious gatherings before,
16 during, and after school to the same extent that students are
17 permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and
18 groups. Religious groups shall be given the same access to school
19 facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups,
20 without discrimination based on the religious content of the
21 expression of the group. If student groups that meet for
22 nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce the
23 groups' meetings, for example, by advertising in a student
24 newspaper, putting up posters, making announcements on a student

1 activities bulletin board or public address system, or handing out
2 leaflets, school authorities shall not discriminate against groups
3 that meet for prayer or other religious speech. School authorities
4 may disclaim sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events,
5 provided they administer the disclaimer in a manner that does not
6 favor or disfavor groups that meet to engage in prayer or other
7 religious speech.

8 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

9 SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
10 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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14 52-1-6747 KB 02/17/09

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