

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 54th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1940
Version:	Com.Sub.
Request Number:	N/A
Author:	Representative Bennet et al
Date:	3/5/2013
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The committee substitute requires school districts to treat the voluntary expression of a student of a religious viewpoint in the same manner the district treats a student expression of a secular viewpoint. School boards must adopt policies of limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak. Students also will be allowed to express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork and other written and oral assignments. Students will be able to organize prayer groups and other activities and have the same access to school facilities as other groups. School districts will adopt a model policy that is substantially similar to the one outlined in the measure that governing voluntary religious expression in public schools. The attorney general of the state will have the authority to enforce the provisions of the act.

Prepared By: Dawn Marks

Fiscal Analysis

Committee Sub. for HB 1940 creates the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act. School districts are required to treat student expression in a certain manner and adopt a Model Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Policy. The Attorney General shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of the act. A person injured by a violation of the act may bring a cause of action for civil relief. Department of Education personnel provide that there is no impact on state funds.

Prepared By: Andrea Kearney

Other Considerations

None at this time