

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 54th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2422
Version:	Introduced
Request Number:	N/A
Author:	Rep. Bennett et al.
Date:	2/13/2014
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

HB 2422, as introduced, requires school districts to treat student expressions in the same manner on an otherwise permissible subject, regardless of the students' secular or religious viewpoint. School districts must adopt a policy that includes the establishment of a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events. The policy must include a school district disclaimer that states the student speaker does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the district. The disclaimer must be provided at all graduation ceremonies. The measure permits students to express their religious beliefs in their homework and classroom assignments. The work will be judged by ordinary academic standards, and students will not be penalized or rewarded based on the religious content of their work. Additionally, the measure prohibits school districts from discriminating against student organized prayer groups and other religious gatherings. Such groups will also be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as other noncurricular groups. Lastly, if a school district voluntarily adopts the model policy contained within the measure, the district will be considered in compliance with the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act. The Attorney General has the authority to enforce the provisions of the measure, and a person injured by a violation of the act may bring civil action.

Prepared By: Scott Tohlen

Fiscal Analysis

HB 2422, as introduced, has no fiscal impact.

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Other Considerations

None at this time.