

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE BILL 202*
Second Edition Engrossed 3/20/95

Short Title: Moment of Silence.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Cummings, Hayes; Allred, Barbee, Clary, Cocklereece, Davis, Ellis, Gardner, Grady, Gray, Hiatt, Justus, Lemmond, McComas, McMahan, Mitchell, Nichols, Pate, Rayfield, Reynolds, Russell, Sharpe, Snowden, Tallent, Weatherly, C. Wilson, and Wood.

Referred to: Education.

February 16, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE OBSERVANCE OF A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN ALL
3 SCHOOL UNITS AND TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC
4 SCHOOLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 115C-47(29) reads as rewritten:

7 " (29) To ~~Authorize~~Require the Observance of a Moment of
8 ~~Silence.~~Silence in All School Units. —Local boards of education
9 ~~may~~—To afford students and teachers a moment of quiet
10 reflection at the beginning of each day in the public schools, to
11 create a boundary between school time and nonschool time,
12 and to set a tone of decorum in the classroom that will be
13 conducive to discipline and learning, every local board of
14 education shall adopt ~~policies~~ a policy to ~~authorize~~ require the
15 observance of a moment of silence at the commencement of
16 the first class of each day in all grades in the public schools.

1 Such a policy shall provide that the teacher in charge of the
2 room in which each class is held ~~may~~shall announce that a
3 period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be
4 observed and that during that period silence shall be
5 maintained and no one may engage in any other activities.
6 Such period of silence shall be totally and completely
7 unstructured and free of guidance or influence of any kind
8 from any sources."

9 Sec. 2. G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

10 "(29a) To Ensure Freedom of Religion. – No local board of
11 education shall have a policy of denying, or that effectively
12 prevents participation in, prayer in public schools by
13 individuals on a voluntary basis. No local board of education
14 shall require any person to participate in prayer or influence the
15 form or content of any prayer in public schools. This
16 subdivision shall not be construed to direct any local board of
17 education to take any action in violation of the Constitutions of
18 North Carolina or the United States."

19 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995, and applies to all school years
20 beginning with the 1995-96 school year.