

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 1768\*

Short Title: Permit Voluntary Student Prayer.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Cummings, Hayes; Adams, Arnold, Bowman, Braswell, D. Brown, J. Brown, Church, Cole, Cunningham, Dickson, Edwards, Esposito, Flaherty, Gamble, Gardner, Griffin, Hill, H. Hunter, R. Hunter, Ives, Jenkins, Joye, Justus, Kinney, Kuczmariski, McAllister, Mercer, Nichols, Oldham, J. Preston, Ramsey, Robinson, Russell, Sexton, Spears, Thompson, Wainwright, Wilson, Wright, and Yongue.

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Referred to: Education.

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May 26, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO DIRECT LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PERMIT  
3 VOLUNTARY STUDENT PRAYER AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO  
4 ASSIST LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION IN CARRYING OUT THIS DUTY.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

7 "(29a) To Permit Students to Engage Voluntarily in Student Initiated Prayer.  
8 – In order that the right of every student to the free exercise of religion  
9 be guaranteed within the schools and that the freedom of each  
10 individual student not be subject to pressure from the State to engage  
11 in or to refrain from religious observation on school grounds,  
12 consistent with the constitutional principles of freedom of religion and  
13 separation of church and state, local boards of education shall permit  
14 students in the public schools to engage voluntarily in student-initiated  
15 prayer."

16 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of  
17 Education the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to  
18 assist local boards of education in implementing the provisions of Section 1 of this act  
19 consistent with the State and federal constitutions.

1           Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1994.