

By Senator Clary

7-1035-98

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to education; authorizing
individual district school boards by resolution
to allow invocation or benediction at specified
secondary-school-related events; providing
legislative intent; providing an effective
date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Each district school board is authorized to
adopt a resolution allowing the use of an invocation or a
benediction at a secondary-school commencement exercise, a
secondary-school-related sporting event, or a
secondary-school-related noncompulsory student assembly. The
resolution must provide:

(1) That the use of an invocation or a benediction
shall be at the discretion of the students.

(2) That an invocation or a benediction, if used,
shall be given by a student volunteer.

(3) That an invocation or a benediction shall be
nonsectarian and nonproselytizing in nature.

(4) That school personnel shall not participate in, or
otherwise influence the exercise of the discretion of the
students in, the determination of whether to use an invocation
or a benediction.

Section 2. It is the purpose of this act to provide
for the solemnization and memorialization of secondary-school
events and ceremonies, and this act is not intended to advance
or endorse any religion or religious belief.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Authorizes a district school board to adopt a resolution allowing the use of an invocation or a benediction at specified secondary-school-related events at the discretion of the students.