

By the Committee on Education and Senators Clary, Grant,
Cowin, Bronson, Childers and Laurent

304-2189-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; authorizing
3 district school boards to allow the use of an
4 inspirational message at noncompulsory high
5 school events; providing legislative intent;
6 providing for severability; providing an
7 effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. School boards are authorized, but not
12 required, to permit the use of a brief opening or closing
13 message including, but not limited to, a poem, a prayer, or an
14 inspirational thought, at any noncompulsory high school
15 activity, including student assemblies, sporting events,
16 graduation, and other school-related activities, if a majority
17 of the students participating request a message and select a
18 student representative to deliver the message.

19 Section 2. It is the purpose of this act to provide
20 for the solemnization and memorialization of noncompulsory
21 high school events and ceremonies.

22 Section 3. This act is not intended to prohibit the
23 school or school officials from disciplining students in
24 regard to unprotected speech or behavior that may be
25 inappropriate or disruptive.

26 Section 4. If any provision of this act or the
27 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
28 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
29 applications of the act which can be given effect without the
30 invalid provision or application, and to this end the
31 provisions of this act are declared severable.

1 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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3 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
5 SB 2636

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7 The committee substitute differs from SB 2636 in the following
8 ways:

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10 1. The inspirational message is authorized for noncompulsory
11 high school events, rather than secondary school assemblies.

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13 2. The school board, its officers and employees and the school
14 principal are not authorized to monitor or review the message.

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16 3. If a majority of the student body chooses to have a message
17 they must select a student to present the message; the student
18 is not required to prepare the message.

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20 4. The purpose of the bill is to solemnize and memorialize
21 noncompulsory high school events and ceremonies.

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23 5. The bill dos not prevent school officials from disciplining
24 students for inappropriate or disruptive speech.

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26 6. The provisions of the act are severable.

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