

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; authorizing
3 individual district school boards by resolution
4 to allow invocation or benediction at specified
5 secondary school-related events; providing
6 legislative intent; providing severability;
7 providing an 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. Any district school board is authorized to
12 adopt a resolution allowing the use of an inspirational
13 message, including an invocation or a benediction at a
14 secondary school commencement exercise or a secondary
15 school-related noncompulsory student assembly. The resolution
16 must provide:

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

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

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

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

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

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1 Section 3. If any provision of this act or the
2 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
3 invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or
4 applications of the act which can be given effect without the
5 invalid provision or application, and to this end the
6 provisions of this act are declared severable.

7 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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