

By Senator Bullard

39-1565-03

See HB 243

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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 severability;  
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Any district school board is authorized to  
adopt a resolution allowing the use of an inspirational  
message, including an invocation or a benediction, at a  
secondary school commencement exercise 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.

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, 2003.  
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