

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

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

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 10           Section 1. Any district school board is authorized to  
 11 adopt a resolution allowing the use of an inspirational message,  
 12 including an invocation or a benediction, at a secondary school  
 13 commencement exercise or a secondary school-related  
 14 noncompulsory student assembly. The resolution must provide:

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

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

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

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

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

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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29           Section 3. If any provision of this act or the application  
30 thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
31 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of  
32 the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision  
33 or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are  
34 declared severable.

35           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.