

By Senator Wise

5-1689-07

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to education; authorizing individual district school boards by resolution to allow an inspirational message at specified secondary-school-related events; providing requirements; providing legislative intent; providing for severability; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Any district school board may adopt a resolution allowing the use of an inspirational message, including an invocation or a benediction, at a commencement exercise or noncompulsory student assembly at a secondary school. The resolution must provide that:

(1) The use of an inspirational message be at the discretion of the students.

(2) An inspirational message, if used, be given by a student volunteer.

(3) School personnel may not participate in or otherwise influence the exercise of the discretion of the students in determining whether to use an inspirational message.

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

Section 3. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of

1 the act which can be given effect without the invalid  
2 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of  
3 this act are severable.

4 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Authorizes any district school board to allow an  
9 inspirational message at a secondary school commencement  
10 exercise or secondary-school-related noncompulsory  
11 assembly. Provides requirements for the resolution.  
12 Provides legislative intent. Provides for severability.  
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