

By Senator Siplin

19-00296B-11

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; authorizing district  
3           school boards to adopt resolutions that allow prayers  
4           of invocation or benediction at secondary school  
5           events; providing legislative intent; providing for  
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 may adopt a resolution  
11 allowing the use of an inspirational message, including prayers  
12 of invocation or benediction, at secondary school commencement  
13 exercises or any other noncompulsory student assembly. The  
14 resolution must provide that:

15           (1) The use of a prayer of invocation or benediction is at  
16 the discretion of the student government.

17           (2) All prayers of invocation or benediction will be given  
18 by student volunteers.

19           (3) All prayers of invocation or benediction will be  
20 nonsectarian and nonproselytizing in nature.

21           (4) School personnel may not participate in or otherwise  
22 influence any student in the determination of whether to use  
23 prayers of invocation or benediction.

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

28           Section 3. If any provision of this act or its application  
29 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity

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30 does not affect other provisions or applications of the act  
31 which can be given effect without the invalid provision or  
32 application, and to this end the provisions of this act are  
33 severable.

34 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.