

HB 317

2012

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.

7
 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 9

10 Section 1. Any district school board may adopt a
 11 resolution allowing the use of an inspirational message,
 12 including prayers of invocation or benediction, at secondary
 13 school commencement exercises or any other noncompulsory student
 14 assembly. The 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

HB 317

2012

29 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity
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, 2012.