

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2971

5 By: Representatives Pritchard, Fite, Dickinson, Adams, Anderson, Berry, Borhauer, Childers, D.
6 Creekmore, Dunn, L. Evans, Everett, Glidewell, R. Green, Hardwick, Harris, J. Hutchinson, T.
7 Hutchinson, Jackson, Jeffrey, Kenney, Key, Lamoureux, Mack, M. Martin, Matayo, Maxwell, Medley,
8 Nichols, Norton, Ormond, Pace, Petrus, Pyle, Ragland, Rosenbaum, Walters, Abernathy, Blair, Sample,
9 Wood
10 By: Senators Baker, Altes, Broadway, Bryles, Faris, Holt, G. Jeffress, Salmon, J. Taylor, Wilkinson,
11 Critcher, Hendren, J. Jeffress, Trusty, Whitaker
12
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For An Act To Be Entitled

14 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT INTERFERENCE WITH STUDENT-LED
15 AND STUDENT-INITIATED PRAYERS AT PUBLIC SCHOOL
16 FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
17 OTHER PURPOSES.
18

Subtitle

19 TO PROHIBIT INTERFERENCE WITH STUDENT-
20 LED AND STUDENT-INITIATED PRAYERS AT
21 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE STATE
22 OF ARKANSAS.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that:

30 (1) The First Amendment to the United States Constitution
31 guarantees freedom of speech and the free exercise of religion;

32 (2) Students do not lose their rights of free speech and freedom
33 of religion under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution when
34 they attend a public school within the State of Arkansas; and

35 (3) Student-initiated and student-led prayers at public school
36 functions within the State of Arkansas are permissible under the First



1 Amendment to the United States Constitution.

2
3 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 10, Subchapter 1 is amended
4 to add an additional section to read as follows:

5 6-10-118. Student-initiated prayer.

6 The Department of Education and its employees, local school boards, and
7 local school districts and their employees are prohibited from interfering
8 with prayer that is initiated by students and led by students at public
9 school functions or activities within the State of Arkansas, including, but
10 not limited to:

- 11 (1) Basketball games;
- 12 (2) Baccalaureate;
- 13 (3) Football games;
- 14 (4) Graduation; or
- 15 (5) Other school sporting events.