

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

*As Engrossed: H3/29/05*

# 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

15 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT INTERFERENCE WITH STUDENT-LED  
16 AND STUDENT-INITIATED PRAYERS AT PUBLIC SCHOOL  
17 FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR  
18 OTHER PURPOSES.  
19

## Subtitle

21 TO PROHIBIT INTERFERENCE WITH STUDENT-  
22 LED AND STUDENT-INITIATED PRAYERS AT  
23 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE STATE  
24 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.

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

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

16 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a student's  
17 freedom of speech to disrupt a public school function or activity.

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19 /s/ Pritchard, et al  
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