

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2445

4
5 By: Representative Harris
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT INTERFERENCE WITH STUDENT-LED
10 AND STUDENT-INITIATED PRAYERS AT PUBLIC SCHOOL
11 FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

13
14 TO PROHIBIT INTERFERENCE WITH STUDENT-
15 LED AND STUDENT-INITIATED PRAYERS AT
16 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE STATE
17 OF ARKANSAS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that:

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

26 (2) Students do not lose their rights of free speech and free
27 exercise of religion under the First Amendment to the United States
28 Constitution when they attend a public school within the State of Arkansas;
29 and

30 (3) Student-initiated and student-led prayers at public school
31 functions within the State of Arkansas are permissible under the First
32 Amendment to the United States Constitution.
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 10, Subchapter 1 is amended
35 to add an additional section to read as follows:

36 6-10-121. Student-initiated prayer.



1 (a) The Department of Education and its employees, local school
2 boards, and local school districts and their employees are prohibited from
3 interfering with prayer that is initiated by students and led by students at
4 public school functions or public school activities within the State of
5 Arkansas, including, without limitation:

- 6 (1) Athletic games and events;
- 7 (2) Baccalaureate;
- 8 (3) Graduation; or
- 9 (4) Other school events.

10 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a student's
11 freedom of speech or free exercise of religion to disrupt a public school
12 function or activity.

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