

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1437

Introduced by

Representatives Dosch, Carlisle, Grande, Meier

Senator Stenehjem

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-19-03 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to a period of silence, the recitation of prayers, and the pledge of allegiance in schools.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-19-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
5 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15.1-19-03. Period of silence - Recitation of prayer - Pledge of allegiance.** A The
7 board of a school district shall allow a classroom teacher ~~may require that the students to~~
8 observe a period of silence for meditation, reflection, or prayer for up to one minute at the
9 beginning of each schoolday. A In addition, the school board may ~~require that students~~
10 ~~observe a period of silence for up to one minute at the beginning of each schoolday~~ authorize
11 the voluntary recitation of a prayer by a teacher or student and the pledge of allegiance. The
12 board or the teacher shall inform students that these exercises are not meant to influence an
13 individual's religious beliefs, rather that the exercises allow students to learn about this
14 country's freedoms, including the freedom of religion.