

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1437
(Representatives Dosch, Carlisle, Grande, Meier)
(Senator Stenehjem)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to religious and secular speech in schools; and to repeal section 15.1-19-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to periods of silence during a schoolday.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Recitation of prayer - Period of silence - Pledge of allegiance.

1. A student may voluntarily pray aloud or participate in religious speech at any time before, during, or after the school day to the same extent a student may voluntarily speak or participate in secular speech.
2. A school board, school administrator, or teacher may not impose any restriction on the time, place, manner, or location of any student-initiated religious speech or prayer which exceeds the restriction imposed on students' secular speech.
3. A school board may, by resolution, allow a classroom teacher to impose up to one minute of silence for meditation, reflection, or prayer at the beginning of each school day.
4. A school board may authorize the voluntary recitation of the pledge of allegiance by a teacher or one or more students at the beginning of each school day. A student may not be required to recite the pledge of allegiance, stand during the recitation of the pledge of allegiance, or salute the American flag.

SECTION 2. REPEAL. Section 15.1-19-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1437.

House Vote: Yeas 94 Nays 3 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 41 Nays 8 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State