

Sixty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1275

Introduced by

Representatives K. Koppelman, Damschen, Kasper, Monson, D. Ruby, Vigesaa

Senator Erbele

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-19-03.1 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the recitation of prayer at parochial or private school-sanctioned activities.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-19-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15.1-19-03.1. Recitation of prayer - Period of silence - Pledge of allegiance.**

7 1. A student may voluntarily pray aloud or participate in religious speech at any time
8 before, during, or after the schoolday to the same extent a student may voluntarily
9 speak or participate in secular speech.

10 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither the North Dakota high school
11 activities association nor any other entity may prohibit a parochial or private school,
12 which is a member of the North Dakota high school activities association or another
13 entity, from offering a prayer before a school-sanctioned athletic activity held on the
14 premises of the parochial or private school. An entity may not prohibit a student of a
15 public, private, or parochial school from voluntarily participating in any student-initiated
16 prayer before a school-sanctioned activity athletic held on the premises of the public,
17 parochial, or private school.

18 3. A school board, school administrator, or teacher may not impose any restriction on the
19 time, place, manner, or location of any student-initiated religious speech or prayer
20 which exceeds the restriction imposed on students' secular speech.

21 3.4. A school board may, by resolution, allow a classroom teacher to impose up to one
22 minute of silence for meditation, reflection, or prayer at the beginning of each
23 schoolday.

- 1 ~~4.5.~~ A school board may authorize the voluntary recitation of the pledge of allegiance by a
- 2 teacher or one or more students at the beginning of each schoolday. A student may
- 3 not be required to recite the pledge of allegiance, stand during the recitation of the
- 4 pledge of allegiance, or salute the American flag.