

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~~school athletic  
3 activities.

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

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

7 **15.1-19-03.1. Recitation of prayer - Period of silence - Pledge of allegiance.**

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

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

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

22 ~~3-4.~~ A school board may, by resolution, allow a classroom teacher to impose up to one  
23 minute of silence for meditation, reflection, or prayer at the beginning of each  
24 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.