

Introduced by

Representatives Dosch, Carlisle, Grande, Meier

Senator Stenehjem

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to religious and secular speech in schools; and to repeal section  
3 15.1-19-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to periods of silence during a schoolday.

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

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

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

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22 repealed.