

**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.

Sixty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly

- 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.