

Sixty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED 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~~ athletic activities for
3 public and nonpublic schools.

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 an athletic activity held on the premises of the~~
15 ~~parochial or private school. An entity may not prohibit a student of a public, private, or~~
16 ~~parochial school.~~ A student of a public or nonpublic school may not be prohibited from
17 voluntarily participating in any student-initiated prayer ~~before~~at an athletic activity held
18 on the premises of ~~the public, parochial, or private~~ a public or nonpublic 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.

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- 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.