
By: **Delegates Hill and Burns**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Public Schools - Initiation by Students of Spoken Prayer**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain students in the public schools in the State to
4 initiate spoken prayer during the daily meditation period and at graduation
5 ceremonies; and generally relating to prayer in the public schools in the State.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Education
8 Section 7-104 and 7-205
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1999 Replacement Volume)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article - Education**

14 7-104.

15 (a) Principals and teachers in each public elementary and secondary school in
16 this State may require all students to be present and participate in opening exercises
17 on each morning of a school day and to meditate silently for approximately 1 minute.

18 (b) During this period, a student or teacher may read the holy scripture or
19 pray.

20 (C) DURING THIS PERIOD, A STUDENT OR A GROUP OF STUDENTS MAY
21 INITIATE A SPOKEN PRAYER.

22 7-205.

23 (a) The promotion of students in a public school and graduation from a public
24 high school shall be in accordance with:

25 (1) Policies established by the county board; and

1 (2) The rules and regulations of the State Board.

2 (b) (1) Each student who graduates from a public high school shall receive
3 the same type of diploma or certificate, regardless of the high school attended or the
4 course taken.

5 (2) The diploma or certificate shall state that the student has completed
6 a program of studies satisfactorily in accordance with the requirements of the State
7 Board.

8 (C) AS PART OF A GRADUATION CEREMONY AT A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL, A
9 STUDENT OR A GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE CEREMONY
10 MAY INITIATE A SPOKEN PRAYER.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 July 1, 2000.