

ENROLLED

HB 529

2021 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to moments of silence in public  
 3 schools; amending s. 1003.45, F.S.; providing  
 4 legislative findings; requiring that public school  
 5 principals require certain teachers to set aside time  
 6 for a moment of silence at the beginning of each  
 7 school day; specifying the duration of the required  
 8 moment of silence; prohibiting teachers from making  
 9 suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a  
 10 student may engage in during the moment of silence;  
 11 deleting a provision authorizing district school  
 12 boards to provide a brief period of silent prayer or  
 13 meditation; requiring certain teachers to encourage  
 14 parents or guardians to discuss the moment of silence  
 15 with their children and to make suggestions as to the  
 16 best use of this time; providing an effective date.

17  
 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19  
 20 Section 1. Section 1003.45, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 21 to read:

22 1003.45 Permitting study of the Bible and religion;  
 23 requiring a moment of silence ~~permitting brief meditation~~  
 24 ~~period.~~-

25 (1) The district school board may install in the public

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26 | schools in the district a secular program of education  
27 | including, but not limited to, an objective study of the Bible  
28 | and of religion.

29 |       (2) The Legislature finds that in today's hectic society  
30 | too few persons are able to experience even a moment of quiet  
31 | reflection before plunging headlong into the activities of daily  
32 | life. Young persons are particularly affected by the absence of  
33 | an opportunity for a moment of quiet reflection. The Legislature  
34 | finds that our youth, and society as a whole, would be well  
35 | served if students in the public schools were afforded a moment  
36 | of silence at the beginning of each school day.

37 |       (3) The principal of each public school shall require  
38 | teachers in first-period classrooms in all grades to set aside  
39 | at least 1 minute, but ~~district school board may provide that a~~  
40 | brief period, not more than ~~to exceed~~ 2 minutes, daily, for a  
41 | moment ~~the purpose~~ of silence, during which students may not  
42 | interfere with other students' participation. A teacher may not  
43 | make suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a  
44 | student may engage in during the moment of silence ~~silent prayer~~  
45 | or meditation be set aside at the start of each school day or  
46 | each school week in the public schools in the district.

47 |       (4) Each first-period classroom teacher shall encourage  
48 | parents or guardians to discuss the moment of silence with their  
49 | children and to make suggestions as to the best use of this  
50 | time.

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51 |           Section 2.   This act shall take effect July 1, 2021. |