

SENATE BILL NO. 512

BY SENATORS GATTI, ALARIO, ALLAIN, BOUDREAUX, CORTEZ, FANNIN, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MORRISH, GARY SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAHAM, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BOUIE, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, COX, DEVILLIER, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAZEL, HENRY, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, MACK, MAGEE, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, GREGORY MILLER, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SHADOIN, STAGNI, STOKES, TALBOT, THOMAS, WHITE, WRIGHT AND ZERINGUE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:2115.11(A), relative to student-initiated prayer; to provide
3 relative to school employee participation in student-initiated prayer; and to provide
4 for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:2115.11(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §2115.11. Prayer; student-initiated; conditions

8 A.(1) Upon the request of any public school student or students, the proper
9 school authorities may permit students to gather for prayer in a classroom,
10 auditorium, or other space that is not in use, at any time before the school day begins
11 when the school is open and students are allowed on campus, at any time after the
12 school day ends provided that at least one student club or organization is meeting at
13 that time, or at any noninstructional time during the school day. A school employee
14 may be assigned to supervise the gathering if such supervision is also requested by
15 the student or students and the school employee volunteers to supervise the
16 gathering. If a school employee present to supervise the gathering chooses, he
17 may quietly bow his head during a student-led, student-initiated prayer so that

1 the employee may treat the students' religious beliefs and practices with
 2 deference and respect.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 8 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____