

HOUSE BILL 650

By Holsclaw

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 49, relative to designating a day of prayer over students.

WHEREAS, students face extreme challenges, such as peer pressure to abuse drugs and alcohol, negative influences in the media, school violence and gang activities, and low self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, the students of Tennessee are indeed our state's single greatest resource, and in the coming years will assume leadership positions in this state and responsibility for the advancement of our society; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans are encouraged to pray for protection, guidance, and peace, and for opportunities and blessings on the students of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that prayer be offered for our schools, teachers, and administrators for wisdom and knowledge as they impart to the students of our state the great lessons of life and morality, and the education that each student deserves; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

4-1-414. The governor shall designate the first Thursday during the month of September of each calendar year as "Tennessee's Day of Prayer Over Students" on which the people of this state may, in accordance with their own faith and consciences, turn to prayer, meditation, or otherwise give thanks for the students of this state as well as their teachers, administrators, and schools.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring  
it.