

JAN 23 2002

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2098

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BRUNKHORST, TYMESON, JENKINS, SHEY,
JACOBS, MERTZ, O'BRIEN, and WILDERDYKE

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

HF-2098

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the daily observance of a minute of silence in
2 each accredited public and nonpublic school classroom.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 280.6A OBSERVANCE -- MINUTE OF
2 SILENCE.

3 1. It is the intent of the general assembly and the
4 purpose of this section to guarantee within the schools the
5 right of every student to the free exercise of religion and to
6 subject the freedom of each individual student to the least
7 possible pressure from the state either to engage in, or to
8 refrain from, religious observation on school grounds.

9 2. The board of directors of each school district and the
10 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school may
11 establish the daily observance of one minute of silence in
12 each classroom. During any daily observance of the one-minute
13 period of silence, each teacher responsible for a classroom
14 shall ensure that students remain seated and silent and make
15 no distracting display to the end that each student may, in
16 the exercise of a student's individual choice, meditate, pray,
17 or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere
18 with, distract, or impede other students in their exercise of
19 individual choice.

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EXPLANATION

21 This bill allows the daily observance of a minute of
22 silence in each accredited public and nonpublic school
23 classroom and states the purpose of the provision to guarantee
24 a student's right to the free exercise of religion and to
25 subject the freedom of each student to the least possible
26 pressure from the state to engage in or refrain from religious
27 observance on school grounds.

28 The bill requires teachers to ensure, during any daily
29 observance of the one-minute period of silence, that students
30 remain seated and silent so that all students may exercise
31 their individual choice to meditate, pray, or engage in any
32 other silent activity.

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