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HOUSE BILL 138

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Gloria C. Vaughn

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS;
ESTABLISHING A ONE-MINUTE PERIOD OF SILENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ DAILY OBSERVANCE OF ONE MINUTE OF
SILENCE. --

A. In order that the right of every student to the
free exercise of religion be guaranteed within the public
schools and that the freedom of each individual student be
subject to the least possible pressure from the state either
to engage in or refrain from religious observation on school
grounds, the state board shall require all school districts to
establish the daily observance of one minute of silence in

1 each classroom of the district.

2 B. During the one-minute period of silence, the
3 teacher responsible for each classroom shall take care that
4 all students remain seated and silent and make no distracting
5 display, to the end that each student may, in the exercise of
6 his individual choice, meditate, pray or engage in any other
7 silent activity that does not interfere with, distract or
8 impede other students in the like exercise of individual
9 choice. "

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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