Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 724 (Substitute for House Bill No. 660 by Representative Katrina Jackson)

BY REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA JACKSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENTS: Provides relative to student-initiated prayer gatherings at public schools

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:2118, relative to student prayer gatherings; to permit student prayer gatherings; to provide conditions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:2118 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2118. Prayer; student-initiated; conditions

A. Upon the request of any public school student or students, the proper school authorities may permit students to gather in a classroom, auditorium, or other space that is not in use for prayer at any time before the school day begins when the school is open and students are allowed on campus, at any time after the school day ends provided that at least one student club or organization is meeting at that time, or at any noninstructional time during the school day. A school employee may be assigned to supervise the gathering if such supervision is also requested by the student or students and the school employee volunteers to supervise the gathering.

B. Any school employee may attend and participate in the gathering if it occurs before the employee's work day begins or after the employee's work day ends.

C. Any parent may attend the gathering if the parent adheres to school procedures for approval of visitors on the school campus.

D. The students may invite persons from the community to attend and participate in the gathering if other school organizations and clubs are allowed to

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make similar invitations. Such persons shall adhere to school procedures for approval of visitors on the school campus.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Katrina Jackson HB No. 724

Abstract: Permits students to gather for prayer at public schools under certain circumstances.

Proposed law authorizes school authorities to permit public school students to gather for prayer before or after school or at any noninstructional time during the school day. Provides for attendance by school employees, parents, and persons from the community under certain circumstances.

(Adds R.S. 17:2118)

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