

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 512

BY SENATOR GATTI

SCHOOLS. Provides relative to school employee participation in student-initiated prayer.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

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

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

7 §2115.11. Prayer; student-initiated; conditions

8 A. * * *

9 B.(1) Any school employee may attend and participate in the gathering if it
10 occurs before the employee's work day begins or after the employee's work day ends.

11 **(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection,**
12 **a school employee may, upon request of a student or students, attend and**
13 **participate in the gathering during the employee's work day, provided that:**

14 **(a) The parent or legal guardian of each student in attendance at the**
15 **gathering has submitted a signed request to the school principal that the**
16 **employee participate in the gathering.**

17 **(b) Attendance and participation in the gathering does not interfere with**

1 **the employee's work duties and, if the employee is a faculty member, such**
2 **participation shall not interfere with the employee's instructional duties.**

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.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST

SB 512 Original 2018 Regular Session Gatti

Present law (R.S. 17:2115.3) provides that no law, rule, or policy may deny any student attending a public elementary or secondary school the right to participate in voluntary, student-initiated, student-led prayer.

Present law (R.S. 17:2115.11) provides conditions for student-initiated prayer and allows school employees to volunteer to supervise student-initiated prayer. Also provides that any school employee may participate in the gathering if it occurs before the employee's work day begins or after the employee's work day ends.

Proposed law allows a school employee, upon request of a student or students, to participate in a gathering where there is student-initiated prayer during the employee's work day, provided that such participation does not interfere with the employee's assigned work duties. Further provides that if the employee is a faculty member, such participation shall not interfere with the employee's instructional duties.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:2115.11(B))