

Regular Session, 2013

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

BY REPRESENTATIVES KATRINA JACKSON, KLECKLEY, ADAMS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CHANEY, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, FANNIN, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HILL, HOFFMANN, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, GIROD JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, TERRY LANDRY, LORUSSO, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PIERRE, PRICE, REYNOLDS, SCHEXNAYDER, SMITH, STOKES, THIERRY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WILLMOTT

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

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:2115.11, relative to student prayer gatherings; to permit student prayer
3 gatherings; to provide conditions; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 17:2115.11 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

6 §2115.11. Prayer; student-initiated; conditions

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

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

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

5 D. The students may invite persons from the community to attend and
6 participate in the gathering if other school organizations and clubs are allowed to
7 make similar invitations. Such persons shall adhere to school procedures for
8 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. 17:2115.11)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Makes technical change.