**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑1-443, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT OF SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE FOR A MINUTE OF MANDATORY SILENCE AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL DAY, SO AS TO PERMIT SCHOOLS TO LEAD A PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY, PROVIDED THE SCHOOL ALLOWS A STUDENT TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM IF THE STUDENT DOES NOT WANT TO LISTEN TO OR PARTICIPATE IN THE PRAYER.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 59‑1‑443 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 59-1-443. All schools shall provide for a minute of mandatory silence at the beginning of each school day, during which time the teacher may deliver a prayer, provided the school allows a student to leave the classroom if the student does not want to listen to or participate in the prayer.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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