

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to moments of silence in public  
 3           schools; amending s. 1003.45, F.S.; providing  
 4           legislative findings; requiring public school  
 5           principals to require certain teachers to set aside  
 6           time for a moment of silence at the beginning of each  
 7           school day; specifying the duration of the required  
 8           moment of silence; prohibiting teachers from making  
 9           specified suggestions; deleting a provision  
 10          authorizing district school boards to provide a brief  
 11          period of silent prayer or meditation; requiring  
 12          certain teachers to encourage parents to discuss the  
 13          moment of silence with their children and to make  
 14          suggestions as to the best use of this time; providing  
 15          an effective date.

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 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 19           Section 1. Section 1003.45, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 20 to read:

21           1003.45 Permitting study of the Bible and religion;  
 22 requiring a moment of silence ~~permitting brief meditation~~  
 23 ~~period.~~—

24           (1) The district school board may install in the public  
 25 schools in the district a secular program of education

26 including, but not limited to, an objective study of the Bible  
27 and of religion.

28 (2) (a) The Legislature finds that in the hectic society of  
29 today, too few persons are able to experience even a moment of  
30 quiet reflection before plunging headlong into the activities of  
31 daily life. Young persons are particularly affected by the  
32 absence of an opportunity for a moment of quiet reflection. The  
33 Legislature finds that our youth, and society as a whole, would  
34 be well served if students in the public schools were afforded a  
35 moment of silence at the beginning of each school day.

36 (b) The principal of each public school shall require  
37 teachers in first-period classrooms in all grades to set aside  
38 at least 1 minute, but ~~district school board may provide that a~~  
39 ~~brief period,~~ not more than ~~to exceed~~ 2 minutes, daily, for a  
40 moment ~~the purpose~~ of silence, during which students may not  
41 interfere with other students' participation. A teacher may not  
42 make suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a  
43 student may engage in during the moment of silence.

44 (c) Each such teacher shall encourage parents to discuss  
45 the moment of silence with their children and to make  
46 suggestions as to the best use of this time ~~silent prayer or~~  
47 ~~meditation be set aside at the start of each school day or each~~  
48 ~~school week in the public schools in the district.~~

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.