

**SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

**SB 135**

**2016 Regular Session**

**Milkovich**

**KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS/LIBERTIES. Authorizes political subdivisions to open proceedings with voluntary prayer. (8/1/16)

**SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL**

1. Modifies language to clarify that no official or standard prayer be prescribed by the political subdivision.
2. Adds provisions that one's right to voluntarily choose to pray is not limited or restricted as relates to freedom of speech and free exercise of religion as guaranteed by the U.S. constitution.

**DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

DIGEST

SB 135 Engrossed

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Proposed law provides that a political subdivision may open proceedings with a voluntary prayer. However, no official or standard prayer shall be prescribed by the political subdivision.

Proposed law is intended to reflect the tradition and practice of ceremonial invocations that are meant to lend gravity to a public occasion.

Proposed law implementation is to be neutral toward religion, and shall not be intended nor interpreted as state support of or interference with religion or promoted as a religious exercise.

Proposed law is not to limit or restrict the rights of any individual voluntarily choosing to pray at the opening of proceedings as it relates to the individual's right of freedom of speech or right of the free exercise of religion as guaranteed pursuant to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Adds R.S. 33:9682)

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