

SENATE BILL NO. 135

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAHAM, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, TERRY BROWN, ROBBY CARTER, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CROMER, DWIGHT, EMERSON, FRANKLIN, GUINN, LANCE HARRIS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HORTON, HUNTER, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, MACK, NORTON, PIERRE, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, WHITE AND WILLMOTT

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:9682, relative to political subdivisions; to authorize a political subdivision
3 to open proceedings with a voluntary prayer; to provide certain terms and conditions;
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 33:9682 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§9682. Political subdivisions; voluntary prayer**

8 **A. A political subdivision may open proceedings with a voluntary prayer.**

9 **However, no official or standard prayer shall be prescribed by the political**
10 **subdivision.**

11 **B. This Section is intended to reflect the tradition and practice of**
12 **ceremonial invocations that are meant to lend gravity to a public occasion.**

13 **C. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit or restrict the**
14 **rights of any individual who voluntarily chooses to pray at the opening of**
15 **proceedings as it relates to the individual's right of freedom of speech or right**
16 **of the free exercise of religion as guaranteed pursuant to the First Amendment**
of the Constitution of the United States.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____