

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 253

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

SCHOOLS. Provides relative to school employee participation in student-initiated prayer.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:2115.11(B), relative to student-initiated prayer; to authorize
3 school employee participation in student-initiated prayer; to provide for conditions;
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:2115.11(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §2115.11. Prayer; student-initiated; conditions

8 * * *

9 B. Any school employee may attend and participate in the gathering ~~if it~~
10 ~~occurs before the employee's work day begins or after the employee's work day ends~~
11 **at any time during the day, provided such participation does not interfere with**
12 **the employee's prescribed work duties.**

13 * * *

14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become

1 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

SB 253 Original 2018 Regular Session Milkovich

Present law (R.S. 17:2115.3) provides that no law, rule, or policy may deny any student attending a public elementary or secondary school the right to participate in voluntary, student-initiated, student-led prayer.

Present law (R.S. 17:2115.11) provides conditions for student-initiated prayer and allows school employees to volunteer to supervise student-initiated prayer.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that any school employee may participate in the gathering if it occurs before the employee's work day begins or after the employee's work day ends.

Proposed law deletes present law and instead provides that a school employee may participate in a gathering where there is student-initiated prayer at any time during the day, provided that such participation does not interfere with the employee's prescribed work duties.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:2115.11(B))