

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 135

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

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

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AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

§9682. Political subdivisions; voluntary prayer

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

However, no official or standard prayer shall be used or adopted.

B. This Section is intended to reflect the tradition and practice of ceremonial invocations that are meant to lend gravity to a public occasion. The implementation of this Section shall 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.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry G. Jones.

DIGEST

SB 135 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Milkovich

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

Proposed law further provides that proposed law is intended to reflect the tradition and practice of ceremonial invocations that are meant to lend gravity to a public occasion. The implementation of the proposed law shall 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.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Adds R.S. 33:9682)