
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1440 Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY KLINGAMAN, ZORD, LOGUE, HALVERSON, NOYE,
SCHEAFFER, W. W. FOSTER, MCGINNIS, POLITE, DIETZ, GRIECO,
PITTS, POTT, PRATT, MADIGAN, WEIDNER, SHUMAN, FREIND, WILT,
D. S. HAYES, S. E. HAYES JR., WENGER, A. C. FOSTER JR.,
MOEHLMANN, ZWIKL, HELFRICK, YAHNER, CIMINI, CESSAR, GEESEY,
HOPKINS, DOYLE, SALVATORE, KNEPPER, FISCHER, E. Z. TAYLOR,
SIRIANNI, THOMAS, O'CONNELL, W. D. HUTCHINSON, E. H. SMITH
AND STUBAN, JUNE 30, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 30, 1977

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for periods of
6 meditation and prayer.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1516.1, act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
10 No.14), known as the "Public School Code of 1949," added
11 December 6, 1972 (P.L.1412, No.305), is amended to read:

12 Section 1516.1. Meditation and Prayer Periods.--(a) In each
13 public school classroom, the teacher in charge [may, or if so
14 authorized or directed by the board of school directors by which
15 he is employed,] shall, at the opening of school upon every
16 school day, [conduct a brief period of] announce that a period
17 of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be

1 observed for silent prayer or meditation with the participation
2 of all the pupils therein assembled and during any such period
3 silence shall be maintained and no activities engaged in.

4 (b) The silent prayer or meditation authorized by subsection
5 (a) of this section is not intended to be, and shall not be
6 conducted as, a religious service or exercise, but shall be
7 considered as an opportunity for silent prayer or meditation on
8 a religious theme by those who are so disposed, or a moment of
9 silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day.

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.