

1-1 By: Parker S.B. No. 1556  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 3, 2023; March 16, 2023, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;  
 1-4 April 12, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11,  
 1-5 Nays 0; April 12, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the right of a public school employee to engage in  
 1-22 religious speech or prayer while on duty.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 22, Education Code, is  
 1-25 amended by adding Section 22.012 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 22.012. RELIGIOUS SPEECH OR PRAYER. The right of an  
 1-27 employee of a school district or open-enrollment charter school to  
 1-28 engage in religious speech or prayer while on duty may not be  
 1-29 infringed on by the district or school or another state  
 1-30 governmental entity, unless the infringement is:

1-31 (1) necessary to further a compelling state interest;  
 1-32 and

1-33 (2) narrowly tailored using the least restrictive  
 1-34 means to achieve that compelling state interest.

1-35 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
 1-36 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
 1-37 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
 1-38 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
 1-39 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

1-40 \* \* \* \* \*