

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 87

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the observance of one minute of silence during the school day in public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 25.901, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 25.901. EXERCISE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO PRAY;
OBSERVANCE OF ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE. (a) A public school student has an absolute right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt the instructional or other activities of the school. Except as provided by Subsection (b), a [A] person may not require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

(b) The board of trustees of each school district shall provide for the observance of one minute of silence during each school day at each school in the district. During that one-minute period, each student may, as the student chooses, reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with or distract another student.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.