

1-1 By: Parker, et al. S.B. No. 965
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 29, 2025; February 13, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
1-4 March 17, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11,
1-5 Nays 0; March 17, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
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, 2025.

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