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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 248
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Antani

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SUMMARY

- Requires, rather than permits as under current law, a school district to provide for a moment of silence each school day for prayer, reflection, or meditation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

School districts and moment of silence

The bill requires, rather than permits as under current law, each school district board of education to provide for a moment of silence each school day for prayer, reflection, or meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. Continuing law, unchanged by the bill prohibits a district board or school employee from requiring a student to participate in a moment of silence.

Under continuing law, a district board cannot adopt a policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion. But, a district board also cannot prohibit a student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs in any primary or secondary school.

Continuing law specifies that a district board cannot prohibit a classroom teacher from providing reasonable periods of time for activities of a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme in the teacher's classroom. However, a student cannot be required to participate in those activities if they are contrary to the religious convictions of the student or the student's parents.¹

¹ R.C. 3313.601.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-05-21
