

House Bill 807

By: Representatives Mangham of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Walker of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Beasley-Teague of the 65<sup>th</sup>, Stanley-Turner of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 21 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to a brief period of quiet reflection, so as to clarify that the daily moment of quiet  
3 reflection in public schools shall accommodate students who wish to exercise their freedom  
4 of religion to engage in silent prayer or silent meditation; to provide for legislative findings;  
5 to provide that students may reflect on an inspirational poem or reading, pray silently, or  
6 meditate silently during the moment of quiet reflection; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
7 other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 The General Assembly finds that the hectic pace of today's society allows few of our  
11 citizens, particularly our young citizens, to experience a daily moment of quiet reflection  
12 before plunging headlong into the day's activities. The General Assembly finds that  
13 requiring a moment of silence at the beginning of each day in our public schools would be  
14 beneficial to our students, to be used as a moment for reflecting on the anticipated activities  
15 of the day, perusing an inspirational poem or reading, or engaging in silent prayer or  
16 meditation. The General Assembly further finds that a daily moment of silence would  
17 accommodate students who wish to engage in silent prayer or meditation as a free exercise  
18 of religion, while subjecting the freedom of each individual student to the least possible  
19 pressure from the state to engage in or refrain from religious observation at school.

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 Article 21 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to a  
22 brief period of quiet reflection, is amended by striking Code Section 20-2-1050, relating to  
23 the brief period of quiet reflection, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 "20-2-1050.

2 (a) In each public school classroom, the teacher in charge shall, at the opening of school  
3 upon every school day, conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60  
4 seconds with the participation of all the pupils therein assembled.

5 (b) The moment of quiet reflection authorized by subsection (a) of this Code section is not  
6 intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise but shall be  
7 considered as an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities  
8 of the day. During the course of such silent reflection, students may reflect on an  
9 inspirational poem or reading or engage in silent prayer, silent meditation, or other  
10 contemplative activity.

11 (c) The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section shall not prevent student  
12 initiated voluntary school prayers at schools or school related events which are  
13 nonsectarian and nonproselytizing in nature."

14

### SECTION 3.

15 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.