

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 822

Short Title: Guarantee Religious Freedom in Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Ballance.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education

April 25, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO MANDATE THAT NEITHER THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2 NOR THE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION INTERFERE WITH FREEDOM
3 OF RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

7 "(38) To Guarantee Religious Freedom, Including the Right to
8 Voluntary School Prayer. – All local boards of education shall have
9 a policy of permitting participation in prayer in public schools by
10 individuals on a voluntary basis. No local board of education shall
11 require any person to participate in prayer or influence the form or
12 content of any prayer in public schools. This subdivision shall not be
13 construed to direct or allow any local board of education to take any
14 action that violates the Constitutions of North Carolina or the United
15 States."

16 Sec. 2. G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

17 "(23) Duty to Assist Local Boards of Education in Guaranteeing Religious
18 Freedom, Including the Right to School Prayer. – The State Board of
19 Education shall assist local boards of education in carrying out their
20 duties under G.S. 115C-47(38)."

1 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995, and applies to all school years
2 beginning with the 1995-96 school year.