

HB 1388 – AS INTRODUCED

2014 SESSION

14-2343
04/05

HOUSE BILL **1388**

AN ACT relative to student religious liberties.

SPONSORS: Rep. Peterson, Hills 21; Rep. LeBrun, Hills 32; Rep. Burt, Hills 6; Rep. Notter,
Hills 21

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill inserts provisions relative to the status of student religious liberties.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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1 school district in a content-neutral manner and a viewpoint-neutral manner, or to protect the safety
2 of students and faculty of the school district.

3 VII. The school board of every school district shall adopt and implement a policy regarding
4 voluntary expression of religious viewpoints by students, including the school district’s plan to
5 comply. To ensure that the school district does not discriminate against a student’s publicly stated
6 voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, and to eliminate any actual or perceived school
7 sponsorship or attribution to the district of a student’s expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, the
8 school board of every school district shall adopt a policy, which shall include the establishment of a
9 limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak.
10 The school board policy regarding the limited public forum shall require the school district to:

11 (a) Provide the forum in a manner that does not discriminate against a student’s
12 voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject.

13 (b) Provide a method, based on neutral criteria, for the selection of student speakers at
14 school events and graduation ceremonies.

15 (c) Ensure that a student speaker does not engage in obscene, vulgar, lewd, or indecent
16 speech.

17 (d) Provide a written or verbal disclaimer, or both, that the student’s speech does not
18 reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the school district.

19 VIII. In this section, “school district” shall include a school administrative unit, school
20 within a school district, and a chartered public school, including the employees, officers, and agents
21 of each.

22 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.