

HJR 39 -- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN PUBLIC PLACES (Bearden)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Children and Families

This proposed constitutional amendment guarantees, upon voter approval, a citizen's First Amendment right to pray and worship as long as the activities are voluntary and subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to all other types of speech.

The amendment also reaffirms a citizen's right to choose any religion or no religion at all by prohibiting both the establishment of an official state religion and any state coercion or endorsement of religion through practices as composing official state prayers.

Public schools receiving state funds are required to display the text of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States in a conspicuous and legible manner.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$52,560 in FY 2007, \$0 in FY 2008, and \$0 in FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.