

HB 1281 -- MOMENT OF SILENCE IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: English

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 14 to 2 and 1 present.

This bill specifies that any school district may allow schools within the district to observe a moment of silence at the opening of every school day in individual classrooms, not to exceed two minutes, in accordance with an established policy. The policy must include, but not be limited to, a schedule for observance, expectations of permissible behavior, and consequences for improper behavior.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that neutral silence does not infringe on anyone's belief or lack of belief and can help students prepare themselves for the day.

Testifying for the bill were Representative English; Bishop Edward Bass, Church of God in Christ; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.