



John Rau

## Conference Committee Synopsis

Legislative Service Commission

### Sub. H.B. 394

124th General Assembly

*The Conference Committee recommends the bill as passed by the Senate with the following changes:*

Topic	House Version	Senate Version	Conference Committee Recommendation
<b>School district policies on periods of silence and religious expression</b>	<p>Requires school districts to provide for a daily minute of silence for prayer, reflection, or meditation on a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme and also requires all students to participate in the minute of silence.</p> <p>Prohibits school districts from establishing religion or regulating student religious expression only during the required minute of silence.</p> <p>Prohibits a teacher from selecting or determining the</p>	<p>Permits school districts to provide for a daily period of silence for reflection or meditation on a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. A board of education, school, or school employee may not require any student to participate in the period of silence.</p> <p>Prohibits any school district from adopting a policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs (such</p>	<p>Same as Senate Version except that it specifies a permissive "moment of silence . . . for prayer, reflection, or meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme."</p>

Topic	House Version	Senate Version	Conference Committee Recommendation
	theme for the daily minute of silence. <i>(R.C. 3313.601.)</i>	expression may be limited to noninstructional time periods). <i>(R.C. 3313.601.)</i>	
<b>School district policies on oral recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag</b>	Requires school districts to set aside time for daily oral recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Such policies must not require any student to participate in the recitation and must prohibit the intimidation of any student by other students or staff aimed at coercing the student into participating in the recitation. <i>(R.C. 3313.602.)</i>	No provision (maintains the current law requiring only that school district boards adopt a policy specifying whether or not oral recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance is part of the school's program).	Maintains the current law, but adds a provision specifying that school district policies must not require any student to participate in the recitation and must prohibit the intimidation of any student by other students or staff aimed at coercing the student into participating in the recitation. <i>(R.C. 3313.602.)</i>

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