

By: Representatives Broomfield, Bailey,
Blackmon, Comans, Cummings, Davis, Flaggs,
Frierson, Henderson (26th), Howell,
Huddleston, Ishee, Manning, Martinson,
Morris, Perkins, Read, Roberson, Robertson,
Straughter, Thomas, Walker, Watson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 823

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A BRIEF PERIOD OF QUIET REFLECTION TO BE
2 CONDUCTED DAILY BY TEACHERS IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM; AND
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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6 SECTION 1. (1) In each public school classroom, at the
7 opening of school upon every school day, the teacher in charge
8 shall conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than
9 sixty (60) seconds with the participation of all the pupils
10 assembled in the classroom.

11 (2) The moment of quiet reflection authorized by subsection
12 (1) of this section is not intended to be and shall not be
13 conducted as a religious service or exercise but shall be
14 considered as an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection on
15 the anticipated activities of the day. No teacher, principal,
16 school board or any person may require or prescribe any particular
17 method or manner in which a child shall participate in any period
18 of silent prayer or meditation, but each child shall be absolutely
19 free to participate or not, in such manner or way as such child
20 shall personally desire, consistent with his or her beliefs.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
22 and after July 1, 1999.