

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 107

S. P. 70

In Senate, January 7, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Perkins of Hancock.

Cosponsors: Senator Hichens of York, Senator Sutton of Oxford and Senator Shute of Waldo.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Providing for a Period of Silence in Public Schools.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

20 MRSA § 1233 is enacted to read:

§ 1233. Period of silence

At the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades in all public schools the teacher in charge of the room in which each such class is held shall announce that a period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be observed for meditation or prayer, and during that period silence shall be maintained and no activities engaged in.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides for a period of silence for prayer or meditation in all public schools at the start of each school day. An identical provision was held constitutional by a federal 3-judge District Court in Massachusetts.