

House Bill 547

By: Representative Henderson of the 113<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-1050 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 brief period of quiet reflection authorized and nature of period, so as to provide for a  
3 student-led prayer during the time period dedicated each day for students to recite the Pledge  
4 of Allegiance; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-1050 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to brief period  
9 of quiet reflection authorized and nature of period, is amended by adding a new subsection  
10 to read as follows:

11 "20-2-1050.

12 (a) In each public school classroom, the teacher in charge shall, at the opening of school  
13 upon every school day, conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60  
14 seconds with the participation of all the pupils therein assembled.

15 (b) The moment of quiet reflection authorized by subsection (a) of this Code section is not  
16 intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise but shall be

17 considered as an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities  
18 of the day.

19 (c) The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section shall not prevent student  
20 initiated voluntary school prayers at schools or school related events which are  
21 nonsectarian and nonproselytizing in nature.

22 (d) Each school day during the period of time in which students are afforded the  
23 opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,  
24 as provided for in paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-310, a student may  
25 invite those who elect to participate to stand, and the student may lead the group in the  
26 following prayer:

27 We pray for all students, teachers, and staff who work here.

28 We give You all the children who study here.

29 We pray our school will be a safe place to learn great skills and talents.

30 May this be a place where we love to learn and a place where we learn to love,

31 A place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued.

32 Bless us to maintain good health and protect us from evil.

33 We ask these blessings through Jesus Christ our Lord.

34 Amen.

35 Students may elect not to participate and may remain seated. Students who elect to  
36 participate may stand for the prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance,  
37 which will follow the prayer."

38 **SECTION 2.**

39 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.