

2008 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1135

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on February 4, 2008)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Fralin)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-203.3, relating to voluntary expression of religious viewpoints in public schools.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-203.3 as follows:

§ 22.1-203.3. Religious viewpoint expression; student expression.

A student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject shall be treated in the same manner as a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject, and the school division shall not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student. Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions, so long as their submission is responsive to the assignment.

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