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HOUSE BILL 1812

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Backlund, Hymes, Chappell, McMorris, Sherstad, McMahan, Carrell, Thompson, Beeksma and Johnson

Read first time 02/09/95. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing students to incorporate religious and  
2 philosophical beliefs in school-related activities; and adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.600 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and Article  
8 I, section 5 and section 11 of the Washington state Constitution  
9 guarantee that students retain their rights of free speech and free  
10 exercise of religion, notwithstanding the student's enrollment and  
11 attendance in a common school. These rights include, but are not  
12 limited to, the right of an individual student to freely express and  
13 incorporate the student's personal beliefs and opinions where relevant  
14 or appropriate in any and all class work, home work, evaluations or  
15 tests, extracurricular activities, or other activities under the  
16 sponsorship or auspices of the school district, without retribution,  
17 negative consequence, or penalty to the standing, evaluation, or  
18 privilege of the individual student. Nothing in this section is  
19 intended to limit any scholastic debate or dialogue in the educational

1 environment. The exercise of these rights shall not be subject to  
2 censorship or otherwise impaired by any employee, officer, agent, or  
3 contractor of the school district.

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