
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: **HB 51**
DATE: 3/21/01
CC: FILE

HB 51

HB 51 authorizes (“may not shall”) a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60 seconds in public school classrooms at the opening of school each day. HB 51 also amends Section 37-13-163 to authorize and direct principals and teachers in public schools to display “In God We Trust” in each classroom, cafeteria and auditorium.

There was some discussion in the House Education Committee as to if HB 51 would invite lawsuits, but members felt that the “may not shall” language addressed this concern. The Senate amended the bill to include the display of “In God We Trust” and the House concurred with the amendment. MAE, AFT nor the Superintendents’ Association expressed opposition to this bill.

HB 51 is effective July 1, 2001.