



AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A STUDENT IS NOT PROHIBITED FROM INITIATING OR PARTICIPATING IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT RELIGION, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, OR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES WITH ANOTHER STUDENT OR A TEACHER; AMENDING SECTION 20-7-112, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 20-7-112, MCA, is amended to read:

**"20-7-112. Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted.** (1) A publication of a sectarian or denominational character may not be distributed in any school. Instruction may not be given advocating sectarian or denominational doctrines. However, any teacher, principal, or superintendent may open the school day with a prayer.

(2) This section does not prohibit:

(a) a school library from including the Bible or other religious material having cultural, historical, or educational significance; or

(b) a student from initiating or participating in a conversation about religion, religious beliefs, or religious practices with another student or a teacher."

**Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HB 744, originated in the House.

---

Chief Clerk of the House

---

Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

---

President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

HOUSE BILL NO. 744

INTRODUCED BY G. KMETZ

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A STUDENT IS NOT PROHIBITED FROM INITIATING OR PARTICIPATING IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT RELIGION, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, OR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES WITH ANOTHER STUDENT OR A TEACHER; AMENDING SECTION 20-7-112, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.