

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10443-MVa-19

Short Title: National and State Mottos in Schools Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Bert Jones, Johnson, Arp, and Shepard (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO AND THE STATE MOTTO  
3 IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the "National and State Mottos in Schools  
6 Act."

7 SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-47 reads as rewritten:  
8 "§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.

9 In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of education  
10 shall have the power or duty:

11 ...

12 (29a) To Require the Display of the United States and North Carolina ~~Flags, Flags~~  
13 and of the National and State Mottos and to Require the Recitation of the  
14 Pledge of Allegiance. – Local boards of education shall adopt policies to (i)  
15 require the display of the United States and North Carolina flags in each  
16 classroom, when available, ~~(ii)~~(ii) require the display of the national motto,  
17 "In God We Trust," and the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem," in at  
18 least one prominent location of each school, such as an entry way, cafeteria,  
19 or other common area, (iii) require that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance  
20 be scheduled on a daily basis, and ~~(iii)~~(iv) provide age-appropriate instruction  
21 on the meaning and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.  
22 These policies shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite  
23 the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags  
24 shall be displayed in each classroom.

25 (29c) To Allow and Encourage the Reading and Posting of Documents on the  
26 History of the United States and With Historical Significance for the United  
27 States.

28 a. ~~Local~~In addition to the requirements of subdivision (29a) of this  
29 section, local boards of education shall allow and may encourage any  
30 public school teacher or administrator to read or post in a public school  
31 building, classroom, or event excerpts or portions of writings,  
32 documents, and records that reflect the history of the United States,  
33 including, but not limited to:

- 34 1. The preamble to the North Carolina Constitution.
- 35 2. The Declaration of Independence.
- 36 3. The United States Constitution.



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- 1 4. The Mayflower Compact.
- 2 5. The national motto.
- 3 6. The National Anthem.
- 4 7. The Pledge of Allegiance.
- 5 8. The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the
- 6 founding fathers and Presidents of the United States.
- 7 9. Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.
- 8 10. Acts of the Congress of the United States, including the
- 9 published text of the Congressional Record.

10 ...."

11 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-218.80 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 115C-218.80. Display of the United States and North Carolina flags and the recitation**  
13 **of the Pledge of Allegiance.**

14 A charter school shall (i) display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom  
15 when available, ~~(ii)~~(ii) display the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the State motto, "To  
16 Be Rather Than to Seem," in at least one prominent location of each school, such as an entry  
17 way, cafeteria, or other common area, (iii) require that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance  
18 be scheduled on a daily basis, and ~~(iii)~~(iv) provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning  
19 and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. A charter school shall not compel  
20 any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated or are  
21 otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each classroom."

22 **SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-5-2, there is appropriated from the  
23 General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of one hundred thousand dollars  
24 (\$100,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to implement the requirements of  
25 this act, including to fund the purchase of supplies for students to create displays or to fund the  
26 purchase of mounted plaques.

27 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2018, and applies beginning with  
28 the 2018-2019 school year.