

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: S3/26/03

A Bill

Act 1333 of 2003
HOUSE BILL 2388

5 By: Representatives Medley, Harris, Fite, Matayo, Anderson, C. Taylor, Roebuck, House, P. Bookout,
6 Biggs, Norton, S. Prater, Dickinson, Hutchinson, L. Evans, Bright, Bennett, Rosenbaum, Key, Jacobs,
7 Gillespie, Bledsoe, Scroggin, Berry
8 By: Senator Altes
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

12 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE OF
13 ALLEGIANCE BY ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS; AND FOR
14 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

17 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE RECITATION OF THE
18 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ALL PUBLIC
19 SCHOOL STUDENTS.
20
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a policy to
25 require that public school students in grades Kindergarten through twelve (K-
26 12) participate in a daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance during the
27 first class of each school day.

28 (b) The policy shall:

29 (1) Require that at the time designated for the recitation of
30 the Pledge of Allegiance, students shall stand and recite the Pledge of
31 Allegiance while facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts or
32 in an appropriate salute if in uniform;

33 (2)(A) Provide that no student shall be compelled to recite the
34 Pledge of Allegiance if the student or the student's parent or legal guardian
35 objects to the student's participating in the exercise on religious,
36 philosophical, or other grounds.



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(B) Students who are exempt from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section, shall be required to remain quietly standing or sitting at their desks while others recite the Pledge of Allegiance;

(3)(A) Provide that teachers or other school staff who have religious, philosophical, or other grounds for objecting are exempt from leading or participating in the exercise.

(B) If a teacher chooses not to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, the policy shall require that another suitable person shall be designated either by the teacher or principal to lead the class; and

(4) Require the school to provide appropriate accommodations for students, teachers, or other staff who are unable to comply with the procedures described in this section due to disability.

/s/ Medley

APPROVED: 4/14/2003