

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2388

4  
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

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

## Subtitle

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16 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE RECITATION OF THE  
17 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ALL PUBLIC  
18 SCHOOL STUDENTS.  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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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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1                   (B) Students who are exempt from reciting the Pledge of  
2 Allegiance under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section, shall be required to  
3 remain quietly standing or sitting at their desks while others recite the  
4 Pledge of Allegiance;

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

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

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

14                   (c) The State Board of Education shall submit its proposed policy to  
15 the Attorney General for an opinion regarding its constitutionality, and  
16 based on the Attorney General’s opinion, the board may grant additional  
17 waivers, or change other requirements of this act as necessary to ensure the  
18 constitutionality of the policy.

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