

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
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4

As Engrossed: H4/6/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1832

5 By: Representatives M. Berry, Beaty Jr., Bentley, Crawford, Dotson, Haak, Speaks, Vaught, Watson,
6 McGrew, B. Smith, S. Smith, Slape, Hollowell, Fortner, Lundstrum, McClure, Coleman, Cloud,
7 Christiansen, Lowery
8 By: Senators J. English, B. Ballinger, *D. Wallace*
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OBSERVE A
12 MOMENT OF SILENCE FOLLOWING THE RECITATION OF THE
13 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
14 RECITE THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES
15 AND SPORTING EVENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
16
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Subtitle

19 TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OBSERVE A
20 MOMENT OF SILENCE FOLLOWING THE DAILY
21 RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
22 AND TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECITE
23 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT SCHOOL
24 ASSEMBLIES AND SPORTING EVENTS.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-108 is amended to read as follows:
30 6-16-108. Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

31 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a policy to require that
32 ~~public:~~

33 (1) Public school students in grades kindergarten through twelve
34 (K-12) participate in a daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed
35 by one (1) minute of silence during the first class of each school day; and

36 (2)(A) Kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public schools



1 lead or broadcast a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by one
2 (1) minute of silence at the commencement of each school-sanctioned after-
3 school assembly and each school-sanctioned sporting event.

4 (B) However, if any part of two (2) or more school-
5 sanctioned sporting events occur on the same day at the same school, a public
6 school may choose to lead or broadcast a recitation of the Pledge of
7 Allegiance followed by one (1) minute of silence at only one (1) of the
8 school-sanctioned sporting events.

9 (b) The policy required under subsection (a) of this section shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (5)(A) Provide for the observance of one (1) minute of silence
32 following the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

33 (B) During the one (1) minute of silence following the
34 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, each student may reflect, pray,
35 meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to
36 interfere with or distract another student.

1 (C) Each public school teacher or other public school
2 employee in charge of students during the period in which the Pledge of
3 Allegiance is recited and moment of silence is observed shall ensure that
4 each student remains silent and does not act in a manner that is likely to
5 interfere with or distract another student.

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7 */s/M. Berry*

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10 **APPROVED: 4/27/21**