

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 965
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/5/18

Short Title: National and State Mottos in Schools Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 21, 2018

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(29a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(29a) To Require the Display of the United States and North Carolina Flags, the
9 Display of the National and State Mottos, and to Require the Recitation of the
10 Pledge of Allegiance. – Local boards of education shall adopt policies to (i)
11 require do the following:

12 a. Require the display of the United States and North Carolina flags in
13 each classroom, when available, (ii) require available.

14 b. Require the display of the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the
15 English translation of the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem,"
16 in at least one prominent location of each school, such as an entry way,
17 cafeteria, or other common area. The display shall state each motto
18 and, underneath that motto, designate whether it is the national or State
19 motto.

20 c. Require that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance be scheduled on a
21 daily basis, and (iii) provide basis.

22 d. Provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical
23 origins of the flag-flags, mottos, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

24 These policies shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite
25 the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags
26 shall be displayed in each classroom."

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

28 "**§ 115C-218.80. Display of the United States and North Carolina flags-flags, display of the**
29 **national and State mottos, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.**

30 (a) A charter school shall (i) display do the following:

31 (1) Display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom
32 classroom, when available, (ii) require available.

33 (2) Display the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the English translation of
34 the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem," in at least one prominent
35 location of each school, such as an entry way, cafeteria, or other common area.



- 1 The display shall state each motto and, underneath that motto, designate
 2 whether it is the national or State motto.
 3 (3) Require that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance be scheduled on a daily
 4 basis, and (iii) provide basis.
 5 (4) Provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical origins of
 6 the flag-flags, mottos, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
 7 (b) A charter school shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the
 8 Pledge of Allegiance.
 9 (c) If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each
 10 classroom."

11 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 116-69.1 reads as rewritten:

12 "**§ 116-69.1. Display of the United States and North Carolina flags-flags, display of the**
 13 **national and State mottos, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.**

- 14 (a) The school shall (i) display-do the following:
 15 (1) Display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom
 16 classroom, when available, (ii) require-available.
 17 (2) Display the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the English translation of
 18 the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem," in at least one prominent
 19 location of the school, such as an entry way, cafeteria, or other common area.
 20 The display shall state each motto and, underneath that motto, designate
 21 whether it is the national or State motto.
 22 (3) Require the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis, and (iii)
 23 provide basis.
 24 (4) Provide instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag-flags,
 25 mottos, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
 26 (b) The school shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge
 27 of Allegiance.
 28 (c) If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each
 29 classroom."

30 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 116-235(i) reads as rewritten:

31 (i) The Display of the United States and North Carolina ~~Flags-Flags,~~ Display of the
 32 National and State Mottos, and the Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. – The Board of
 33 Trustees shall adopt policies to require ~~(i) the display-the following:~~

- 34 (1) Display of the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom
 35 classroom, when available, (ii) the recitation-available.
 36 (2) Display of the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the English translation
 37 of the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem," in at least one prominent
 38 location of the school, such as an entry way, cafeteria, or other common area.
 39 The display shall state each motto and, underneath that motto, designate
 40 whether it is the national or State motto.
 41 (3) Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis.
 42 (4) and (iii) the instruction-Instruction on the meaning and historical origins of
 43 the flag-flags, mottos, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

44 These policies shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of
 45 Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each
 46 classroom."

47 **SECTION 6.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-5-2, there is appropriated from the
 48 General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars
 49 (\$25,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to implement the requirements of
 50 this act, including to fund the purchase of supplies for students to create displays or to fund the
 51 purchase of mounted plaques.

1 **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2018, and applies beginning
2 December 1, 2018.