

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 120

SESSION: 2003 Regular Session

TOPIC: Requiring Public School Students to Recite the Pledge of Allegiance

Date: May 28, 2003

Analyst: Lisa Larson, 651-296-8036

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

Obligates public and charter school students to recite the pledge of allegiance unless the school board or charter school board of directors annually waives the pledge requirement. Allows a school board or charter school board of directors to adopt a local pledge requirement. Obligates a school district or charter school to include in the student handbook a statement that persons may choose not to recite the pledge and students must respect that choice. Excuses teachers and students who object to the pledge requirement. Requires school districts by the 2003-2004 school year to provide instruction in proper flag etiquette and patriotic exercises unless the school board annually waives the requirement.

- 1 Pledge of allegiance.** (a) Requires all public and charter school students to recite the pledge of allegiance at least one time each week. Requires the recitation to be conducted by a classroom teacher or over the school intercom system by the principal's designee or other administrator. Allows a local school board or the charter school board of directors annually to waive this requirement by majority vote.
 - (b) Allows a student or teacher to decline to participate in reciting the pledge.
 - (c) Requires a school district or charter school that has a student handbook or school policy guide to include a statement that anyone who does not wish to recite the pledge of allegiance may elect not to do so and students must respect another person's right to make that choice.
 - (d) Allows a local school board or the charter school board of directors that waives the requirement to recite the pledge to adopt a district or school policy on reciting the pledge.

Section

Makes paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) effective for the 2003-2004 school year and later. Makes paragraph (c) effective for the 2004-2005 school year and later.

2 **Instruction.** Requires a school district to instruct students in proper flag etiquette and in patriotic exercises unless a school board annually votes to waive this requirement.

3 Makes this section effective for instruction beginning in the 2003-2004 school year and later. **State and local requirements.** Makes a charter school subject to the pledge of allegiance requirement.

Makes this section effective for the 2003-2004 school year and later.