

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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

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Overview

Obligates public and charter school students to recite the pledge of allegiance. Allows a school board or charter school board of directors annually to waive the pledge requirement and to adopt a local pledge requirement. Excuses teachers and students who object to the pledge requirement. Requires school districts by the 2004-2005 school year to provide instruction in proper flag etiquette and patriotic exercises unless the school board annually waives the requirement.

Section

1 Pledge of allegiance. (a) Requires all public and charter school students to recite the pledge of allegiance at least one time each week. Allows the recitation to be conducted by a classroom teacher or over the school intercom system by the principal or other administrator. Allows a local school board or the charter school board of directors annually to waive these requirements by majority vote.

(b) Allows students and teachers who object to reciting the pledge to be excused from participating without penalty.

(c) 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.

Makes this section effective immediately.

2 Instruction. Requires a school district to instruct students in proper flag etiquette and in

Section

patriotic exercises unless a school board annually votes to waive this requirement.

Makes this section effective immediately and applicable to the 2004-2005 school year and later.

3 State and local requirements. Makes a charter school subject to the pledge of allegiance requirement.

Makes this section effective immediately.