

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** As Introduced

**Authors:** Anderson, B., and Others

**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 beginning in the 2003-2004 school year. Directs school districts and charter schools to include in the student handbook a statement about student rights and responsibilities for pledging 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 designee. Directs all public and charter schools annually to set aside time for civics education that includes the history and reasons for reciting the pledge. Obligates a school district or charter school that has a student handbook or school policy guide to include a statement about student rights and responsibilities under this subdivision. 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 local policy on reciting the pledge.

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

- 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.

Makes this section effective immediately and applicable to the 2005-2005 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.