

STORAGE NAME: h0009.edk

DATE: December 15, 1998

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION K-12
BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

BILL #: HB 9

RELATING TO: Patriotic programs in school districts

SPONSOR(S): Representative Harrington

COMPANION BILL(S): none

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

(1) EDUCATION K-12

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

I. SUMMARY:

This bill reinstates language that was repealed in 1997 by CS/HB 137 (Ch. 97-190, L.O.F.). The language was previously contained in s. 233.065, F.S., and prescribed specific rules regarding patriotic programs. The 1997 law created a new section of statutes, s. 233.0612, F.S., that generally authorized each school district to provide students with programs and instruction designed to encourage patriotism and greater respect for country.

This bill authorizes district school boards to adopt specific rules to require patriotic programs in order to encourage greater respect for the U.S. government, the national anthem, and the flag. It authorizes school boards to require that students and other civilians stand at attention, with men removing any headdress, when the national anthem is being played. It authorizes requiring that the pledge of allegiance to the flag be rendered by students in a prescribed manner, that is, recitation of "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" with the right hand placed over the heart, at the beginning of the school day in every public school within the district.

Students may be exempted from the requirement to recite the pledge upon written request by a parent or guardian.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 1999.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

Existing statutes authorize school districts to provide programs and instruction to encourage patriotism and greater respect for country, but do not specifically address procedures to be followed when the national anthem is played or with regard to saluting the flag.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Unless specifically exempted, school districts could require that students and staff stand at attention with males removing hats, caps, or other forms of headdress, while the national anthem is played in public schools. Districts could also require that the pledge of allegiance be recited each morning in public schools unless the student is otherwise exempted. Since these provisions are already authorized more generally in s. 233.0612, F.S., the effect is expected to be minimal.

C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

The bill refines statutory authority regarding patriotic programs and makes specific reference to the protocol for standing at attention during the playing of the national anthem and saluting the flag.

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

No.

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

No.

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

N/A

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

N/A

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

N/A

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

N/A

b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

N/A

c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

N/A

d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

N/A

e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

N/A

3. Personal Responsibility:

a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

N/A

b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

N/A

4. Individual Freedom:

- a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

N/A

- b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

N/A

5. Family Empowerment:

- a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

- (1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

- (2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

- (3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

- (4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A

- (5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A

- b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

N/A

- c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

(1) parents and guardians?

N/A

(2) service providers?

N/A

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

Section 233.0655, F.S., is created under the bill.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:

Section 1: This bill reinstates language that was repealed in 1997 by CS/HB 137 (Ch. 97-190, L.O.F.). The language was previously contained in s. 233.065, F.S., and prescribed specific rules regarding patriotic programs. The 1997 law created a new section of statutes, s. 233.0612, F.S., that generally authorized each school district to provide students with programs and instruction designed to encourage patriotism and greater respect for country.

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Section 2: The effective date of the bill is July 1, 1999.

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

N/A

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

N/A

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

N/A

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

N/A

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

N/A

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IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

N/A

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

N/A

V. COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION K-12:

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