

By the Committee on Education/K-12 and Representatives  
Harrington, Fasano and Feeney

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to patriotic programs in the  
3           school districts; creating s. 233.0655, F.S.;  
4           authorizing district school board rules to  
5           require patriotic programs; providing program  
6           requirements; requiring recitation of the  
7           pledge of allegiance; providing an effective  
8           date.

9  
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
12           Section 1. Section 233.0655, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14           233.0655 Patriotic programs; rules.--Each district  
15 school board is authorized to adopt rules to require, in all  
16 of the schools of the district, programs of a patriotic nature  
17 to encourage greater respect for the government of the United  
18 States and its national anthem and flag, subject always to  
19 other existing pertinent laws of the United States or of the  
20 state; provided, that when the national anthem is played,  
21 students and all civilians shall stand at attention, men  
22 removing the headdress; and provided, further, that the pledge  
23 of allegiance to the flag, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of  
24 the United States of America and to the republic for which it  
25 stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and  
26 justice for all," shall be rendered by students standing with  
27 the right hand over the heart. The pledge of allegiance to the  
28 flag, as stated herein, shall be recited at the beginning of  
29 the day in each elementary and secondary public school in the  
30 state, provided that, upon written request by a parent or  
31 guardian, a student may be excused from reciting the pledge.

1 When the pledge is given, civilians must show full respect to  
2 the flag by standing at attention, men removing the headdress,  
3 as provided by s. 7 of U.S. Pub. L. No. 623, approved June 22,  
4 1942, as amended by U.S. Pub. L. No. 829, approved December  
5 22, 1942.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

7  
8 \*\*\*\*\*

9 HOUSE SUMMARY

10 Authorizes district school boards to require patriotic  
11 programs in district schools and specifies program  
12 requirements. Requires recitation of the pledge of  
allegiance in district schools.

13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31