

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to patriotic programs; creating
3 s. 233.0655, F.S.; authorizing district school
4 board rules to require patriotic programs;
5 providing program requirements; requiring
6 recitation of the pledge of allegiance;
7 amending s. 256.11, F.S.; revising the penalty
8 for willfully causing the flag to fail to be
9 properly displayed; providing an effective
10 date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Section 233.0655, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

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

1 the day in each elementary and secondary public school in the
2 state, provided that, upon written request by a parent or
3 guardian, a student may be excused from reciting the pledge.
4 When the pledge is given, civilians must show full respect to
5 the flag by standing at attention, men removing the headdress,
6 except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes, as
7 provided by s. 7 of U.S. Pub. L. No. 623, approved June 22,
8 1942, as amended by U.S. Pub. L. No. 829, approved December
9 22, 1942.

10 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 256.11, Florida
11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 256.11 Public auditoriums; display of the United
13 States flag.--

14 (2) It is the duty of the person responsible for the
15 administration of such auditorium to provide a suitable flag
16 and cause it to be displayed in the manner provided in
17 subsection (1). If any ~~such~~ person willfully causes ~~fails to~~
18 ~~cause~~ the flag to fail to be so displayed, except for the
19 cleaning, repair, or replacement of such flag, such person is
20 guilty of a noncriminal violation, punishable as provided in
21 s. 775.083.

22 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.
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