

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 providing for exceptions and for a notice
8 thereof; amending s. 256.11, F.S.; revising the
9 penalty for willfully causing the flag to fail
10 to be properly displayed; providing an
11 effective date.

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

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

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

1 flag, as stated herein, shall be recited at the beginning of
2 the day in each elementary and secondary public school in the
3 state. Each Student shall be informed by posting a notice in a
4 conspicuous place that the student has the right not to
5 participate in reciting the pledge. Upon written request by
6 his or her parent or guardian, the student must be excused
7 from reciting the pledge. When the pledge is given, civilians
8 must show full respect to the flag by standing at attention,
9 men removing the headdress, except when such headdress is worn
10 for religious purposes, as provided by s. 7 of U.S. Pub. L.
11 No. 623, approved June 22, 1942, as amended by U.S. Pub. L.
12 No. 829, approved December 22, 1942.

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

15 256.11 Public auditoriums; display of the United
16 States flag.--

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

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