

By Senator Evers

2-01181B-16

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the pledge of allegiance; amending  
3           s. 1003.44, F.S.; requiring a written notice of a  
4           student's right not to participate in the pledge of  
5           allegiance to be included in a specific publication;  
6           providing that a student may be excused from certain  
7           actions associated with the pledge of allegiance;  
8           deleting a requirement that civilians stand at full  
9           attention and, if the civilian is a man, remove his  
10          headdress during the pledge of allegiance; providing  
11          an effective date.

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

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15           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1003.44, Florida  
16 Statutes, is amended to read:

17           1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

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

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33 student shall be informed by a written notice published in the  
34 student handbook or a similar publication pursuant to s.  
35 1006.07(2) posting a notice in a conspicuous place that the  
36 student has the right not to participate in reciting the pledge.  
37 Upon written request by his or her parent, the student must be  
38 excused from reciting the pledge, including standing, placing  
39 the right hand over his or her heart, and, if the student is  
40 male, removing his headdress. ~~When the pledge is given,~~  
41 ~~civilians must show full respect to the flag by standing at~~  
42 ~~attention, men removing the headdress, except when such~~  
43 ~~headdress is worn for religious purposes, as provided by Pub. L.~~  
44 ~~ch. 77-435, s. 7, approved June 22, 1942, 56 Stat. 377, as~~  
45 ~~amended by Pub. L. ch. 77-806, 56 Stat. 1074, approved December~~  
46 ~~22, 1942.~~

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.