

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 965  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H965-PCS40745-TC-58

Short Title: National and State Mottos in Schools Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 21, 2018

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO AND THE STATE MOTTO  
3 IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "National and State Mottos in Schools  
6 Act."

7 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-47(29a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(29a) To Require the Display of the United States and North Carolina Flags, the  
9 Display of the National and State Mottos, and to Require the Recitation of the  
10 Pledge of Allegiance. – Local boards of education shall adopt policies to (i)  
11 require do the following:

12 a. Require the display of the United States and North Carolina flags in  
13 each classroom, when available, (ii) require available.

14 b. Require the display of the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the  
15 English translation of the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem,"  
16 in at least one prominent location of each school, such as an entry way,  
17 cafeteria, or other common area. The display shall state each motto  
18 and, underneath that motto, designate whether it is the national or State  
19 motto.

20 c. Require that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance be scheduled on a  
21 daily basis, and (iii) provide basis.

22 d. Provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical  
23 origins of the flag flags, mottos, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

24 These policies shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite  
25 the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags  
26 shall be displayed in each classroom."

27 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-218.80 reads as rewritten:

28 "**§ 115C-218.80. Display of the United States and North Carolina flags flags, display of the**  
29 **national and State mottos, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.**

30 (a) A charter school shall (i) display do the following:

31 (1) Display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom  
32 classroom, when available, (ii) require available.

33 (2) Display the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the English translation of  
34 the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem," in at least one prominent  
35 location of each school, such as an entry way, cafeteria, or other common area.



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1                   The display shall state each motto and, underneath that motto, designate  
2                   whether it is the national or State motto.  
3           (3)       Require that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance be scheduled on a daily  
4                   basis, and (iii) provide basis.

5           (4)       Provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical origins of  
6                   the flag-flags, mottos, and the Pledge of Allegiance.  
7       (b)       A charter school shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the  
8 Pledge of Allegiance.

9       (c)       If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each  
10 classroom."

11           **SECTION 4.** G.S. 116-69.1 reads as rewritten:

12 "**§ 116-69.1. Display of the United States and North Carolina flags-flags, display of the**  
13 **national and State mottos, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.**

14       (a)       The school shall ~~(i) display do~~ the following:

15           (1)       Display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom  
16                   classroom, when available, (ii) require available.

17           (2)       Display the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the English translation of  
18                   the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem," in at least one prominent  
19                   location of the school, such as an entry way, cafeteria, or other common area.  
20                   The display shall state each motto and, underneath that motto, designate  
21                   whether it is the national or State motto.

22           (3)       Require the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis, and (iii)  
23                   provide basis.

24           (4)       Provide instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag-flags,  
25                   mottos, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

26       (b)       The school shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge  
27 of Allegiance.

28       (c)       If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each  
29 classroom."

30           **SECTION 5.** G.S. 116-235(i) reads as rewritten:

31       "(i)       The Display of the United States and North Carolina ~~Flags-Flags, Display of the~~  
32 ~~National and State Mottos,~~ and the Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. – The Board of  
33 Trustees shall adopt policies to require ~~(i) the display the following:~~

34           (1)       Display of the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom  
35                   classroom, when available, (ii) the recitation available.

36           (2)       Display of the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the English translation  
37                   of the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem," in at least one prominent  
38                   location of the school, such as an entry way, cafeteria, or other common area.  
39                   The display shall state each motto and, underneath that motto, designate  
40                   whether it is the national or State motto.

41           (3)       Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis.

42           (4)       ~~and (iii) the instruction-Instruction~~ on the meaning and historical origins of  
43 the ~~flag-flags, mottos,~~ and the Pledge of Allegiance.

44       These policies shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of  
45 Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each  
46 classroom."

47           **SECTION 6.** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-5-2, there is appropriated from the  
48 General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars  
49 (\$25,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to implement the requirements of  
50 this act, including to fund the purchase of supplies for students to create displays or to fund the  
51 purchase of mounted plaques.

1                   **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2018, and applies beginning  
2   December 1, 2018.