

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025**

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**HOUSE BILL 186  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H186-PCS40188-BE-2**

Short Title: The Stars and Stripes Commitment Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 26, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO SCHEDULE RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT THE  
3 BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY AND TO REQUIRE RECITATION OF THE  
4 PLEDGE AT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS.  
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6  
7 **PART I. REQUIRE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO BE SCHEDULED AT THE**  
8 **BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY**

9 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 115C-47(29a) reads as rewritten:

10 "(29a) To Require the Display of the United States and North Carolina Flags, and to  
11 Require the Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. – Local boards of  
12 education shall adopt policies to (i) require the display of the United States  
13 and North Carolina flags in each classroom, when available, (ii) require that  
14 recitation of the ~~Pledge of Allegiance be scheduled on a daily basis,~~ Pledge of  
15 Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4, be scheduled on a daily basis within  
16 one hour of the beginning of the instructional day, and (iii) provide  
17 age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag  
18 and the Pledge of Allegiance. These policies shall not compel any person to  
19 stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated  
20 or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each classroom."

21 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 115C-150.12C(23), as enacted by S.L. 2023-10, reads as  
22 rewritten:

23 "(23) The Display of the United States and North Carolina Flags and the Recitation  
24 of the Pledge of Allegiance. – The board of trustees shall adopt policies to (i)  
25 require the display of the United States and North Carolina flags in each  
26 classroom when available, (ii) require that recitation of the ~~Pledge of~~  
27 ~~Allegiance be scheduled on a daily basis,~~ Pledge of Allegiance, as codified in  
28 4 U.S.C. § 4, be scheduled on a daily basis within one hour of the beginning  
29 of the instructional day, and (iii) provide age-appropriate instruction on the  
30 meaning and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. These  
31 policies shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the  
32 Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags  
33 shall be displayed in each classroom."

34 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 115C-218.80 reads as rewritten:

35 "§ 115C-218.80. **Display of the United States and North Carolina flags and the recitation**  
36 **of the Pledge of Allegiance.**



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1 A charter school shall (i) display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom  
2 when available, (ii) require the recitation of the ~~Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis,~~ Pledge of  
3 Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4, be scheduled on a daily basis within one hour of the  
4 beginning of the instructional day, and (iii) provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning  
5 and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. A charter school shall not compel  
6 any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated or are  
7 otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each classroom."

8 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

9 "(23) Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. – A regional school shall schedule  
10 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4, on a daily  
11 basis within one hour of the beginning of the instructional day. A regional  
12 school shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the  
13 Pledge of Allegiance."

14 **SECTION 1.(e)** G.S. 116-69.1 reads as rewritten:

15 "**§ 116-69.1. Display of the United States and North Carolina flags and the recitation of the**  
16 **Pledge of Allegiance.**

17 The school shall (i) display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom  
18 when available, (ii) require the recitation of the ~~Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis,~~ Pledge of  
19 Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4, be scheduled on a daily basis within one hour of the  
20 beginning of the instructional day, and (iii) provide instruction on the meaning and historical  
21 origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. The school shall not compel any person to stand,  
22 salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available,  
23 flags shall be displayed in each classroom."

24 **SECTION 1.(f)** G.S. 116-235(i) reads as rewritten:

25 "(i) The Display of the United States and North Carolina Flags and the Recitation of the  
26 Pledge of Allegiance. – The Board of Trustees shall adopt policies to require (i) the display of the  
27 United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom when available, (ii) the recitation  
28 of the ~~Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis,~~ Pledge of Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4, be  
29 scheduled on a daily basis within one hour of the beginning of the instructional day, and (iii) the  
30 instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. These  
31 policies shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.  
32 If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each classroom."

33 **SECTION 1.(g)** G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

34 "(26) Display of the United States and North Carolina flags and the recitation of the  
35 Pledge of Allegiance. – Laboratory schools shall schedule recitation of the  
36 Pledge of Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4, on a daily basis within one  
37 hour of the beginning of the instructional day."

## 39 **PART II. REQUIRE RECITATION OF PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT STATE** 40 **BOARD OF EDUCATION AND GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS**

41 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-11 reads as rewritten:

42 "**§ 115C-11. Organization and internal procedures of Board.**

43 ...

44 (b) Regular Meetings of Board. – The regular meetings of the Board shall be held each  
45 month on a day certain, as determined by the Board. The Board shall determine the hour of the  
46 meeting, which may be adjourned from day to day, or to a day certain, until the business before  
47 the Board has been completed.

48 (b1) Annual meeting with the State Board of Community Colleges and the Board of  
49 Governors of The University of North ~~Carolina.~~ Carolina. – The State Board of Education shall  
50 meet with the State Board of Community Colleges and the Board of Governors of The University  
51 of North Carolina at least once a year to discuss educational matters of mutual interest and to

1 recommend to the General Assembly such policies as are appropriate to encourage the  
2 improvement of public education at every level in this State. The meeting in 1987 and every three  
3 years thereafter shall be hosted by the University Board of Governors, the meeting in 1988 and  
4 every three years thereafter shall be hosted by the State Board of Education, and the meeting in  
5 1989 and every three years thereafter shall be hosted by the State Board of Community Colleges.

6 (b2) Pledge of Allegiance. – Every regular and special meeting of the Board shall begin  
7 with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4. This policy shall not  
8 compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 ...."

10 **SECTION 2.(b)** Article 7B of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
11 adding a new section to read:

12 "**§ 115C-76.300. Pledge of Allegiance.**

13 Every meeting of a governing body of a public school unit shall begin with recitation of the  
14 Pledge of Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4. This policy shall not compel any person to  
15 stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance."

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17 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

18 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
19 the 2025-2026 school year.