

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 312

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Short Title: The Stars and Stripes Commitment Act. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Craven, Jones, and Britt (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 18, 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:

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~~, basis  
15 within one hour of the beginning of the instructional day, and (iii) provide  
16 age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag  
17 and the Pledge of Allegiance. These policies shall not compel any person to  
18 stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated  
19 or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each classroom."

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

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

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

33 **§ 115C-218.80. Display of the United States and North Carolina flags and the recitation  
34 of the Pledge of Allegiance.**

35 A charter school shall (i) display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom  
36 when available, (ii) require the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a ~~daily basis~~, daily basis



1 within one hour of the beginning of the instructional day, and (iii) provide age-appropriate  
2 instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. A  
3 charter school shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of  
4 Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each  
5 classroom."

6 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:  
7 "23) Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. – A regional school shall schedule  
8 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis within one hour of the  
9 beginning of the instructional day. A regional school shall not compel any  
10 person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance."

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

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

14 The school shall (i) display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom  
15 when available, (ii) require the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis, daily basis  
16 within one hour of the beginning of the instructional day, and (iii) provide instruction on the  
17 meaning and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. The school shall not  
18 compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated  
19 or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each classroom."

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

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

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

30 "26) Display of the United States and North Carolina flags and the recitation of the  
31 Pledge of Allegiance. – Laboratory schools shall schedule recitation of the  
32 Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis within one hour of the beginning of the  
33 instructional day."

34 **PART II. REQUIRE RECITATION OF PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT STATE**  
35 **BOARD OF EDUCATION AND GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS**

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

37 **"§ 115C-11. Organization and internal procedures of Board.**

38 ...  
39 (b) Regular Meetings of Board. – The regular meetings of the Board shall be held each  
40 month on a day certain, as determined by the Board. The Board shall determine the hour of the  
41 meeting, which may be adjourned from day to day, or to a day certain, until the business before  
42 the Board has been completed.

43 (b1) Annual meeting with the State Board of Community Colleges and the Board of  
44 Governors of The University of North Carolina. – The State Board of Education shall  
45 meet with the State Board of Community Colleges and the Board of Governors of The University  
46 of North Carolina at least once a year to discuss educational matters of mutual interest and to  
47 recommend to the General Assembly such policies as are appropriate to encourage the  
48 improvement of public education at every level in this State. The meeting in 1987 and every three  
49 years thereafter shall be hosted by the University Board of Governors, the meeting in 1988 and  
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1 every three years thereafter shall be hosted by the State Board of Education, and the meeting in  
2 1989 and every three years thereafter shall be hosted by the State Board of Community Colleges.

3       (b2) Pledge of Allegiance. – Every regular and special meeting of the Board shall begin  
4 with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, in the manner provided by 4 U.S.C. § 4. This policy  
5 shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

6       ...."

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

9               "Part 2. Duties of Governing Bodies of Public School Units.

10       **"§ 115C-76.10. Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

14           **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

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