

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE BILL 941

Short Title: Flag, Pledge, and Symbols Taught in Schools. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Thomas; and Bingham.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

March 24, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT REQUIRING LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT POLICIES
(I) PROVIDING FOR THE DISPLAY OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES
AND OF NORTH CAROLINA, (II) ENSURING THAT STUDENTS HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO RECITE THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ON A
REGULAR BASIS, (III) PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTION ON THE MEANING
AND HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF THE FLAG AND THE PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE AND THE VALUES AND PRINCIPALS THEY REPRESENT,
AND (IV) PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTION ON THE STATE SYMBOLS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.

In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of education shall have the power or duty:

...

(29a) To ~~Encourage~~Require the Display of the United States and North Carolina Flags, and to ~~Encourage the Recitation of~~Ensure that Students Have an Opportunity to Recite the Pledge or Oath of Allegiance. – Local boards of education ~~are encouraged to~~shall adopt policies to (i) ~~provide for~~require the display of the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom, when available, and (ii) ~~provide~~ensure that students have the opportunity for students to recite the Pledge or Oath of Allegiance on a regular basis, and (iii) ~~provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.~~basis, which may be a daily basis. These policies shall not compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are donated or are otherwise available, flags shall be displayed in each classroom."

1 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-81(g) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
2 read:
3 "(g) Civic Literacy. –
4 (3c) Local boards of education shall adopt policies that require
5 age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the
6 United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, and the values and
7 principles they represent. Local boards of education shall also adopt
8 policies that require age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and
9 historical origins of the North Carolina flag and the State motto, and
10 the values and principles they represent and on other State symbols."
11 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.