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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 950**

Session of  
1979

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INTRODUCED BY PITTS, E. R. LYNCH, VROON, E. Z. TAYLOR AND  
E. H. SMITH, MARCH 28, 1979

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 28, 1979

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for programs for  
6 development of citizenship and patriotism.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 771, act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,  
10 No.14), known as the "Public School Code of 1949," amended  
11 January 8, 1952 (1951 P.L.1856, No.497), is amended to read:

12 Section 771. Display of United States Flag; Development of  
13 Patriotism.--The board of school directors in each district  
14 shall, when they are not otherwise provided, purchase a United  
15 States flag, flagstaff, and the necessary appliances therefor,  
16 and shall display said flag upon or near each public school  
17 building in clement weather, during school hours, and at such  
18 other times as the board may determine.

19 All boards of school directors, all proprietors or principals  
20 of private schools, and all authorities in control of parochial

1 schools or other educational institutions, shall display the  
2 United States national flag, not less than three feet in length,  
3 within all school buildings under their control during each day  
4 such schools are in session. In all public schools, the board of  
5 school directors shall make all rules and necessary regulations  
6 for the care and keeping of such flags. The expense thereof  
7 shall be paid by the school district.

8 [All supervising officers and teachers in charge of public,  
9 private or parochial schools shall establish and direct the  
10 conduct of appropriate daily instruction or ceremonies, or, in  
11 lieu thereof, at least one full period per week, for the purpose  
12 of affirming and developing allegiance to and respect for the  
13 Flag of the United States of America, and for the promoting of a  
14 clear understanding of our American way of life, with all of the  
15 unparalleled individual opportunities, and our republican form  
16 of government, with its responsiveness to majority decisions and  
17 demands. Such elements shall be included in this program as  
18 instruction in the fundamental principles of our form of  
19 government, an understanding of the provisions of the  
20 Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the  
21 Constitution of the United States of America, the values to be  
22 found in the freedom of speech, of religion and of the press,  
23 the values to be found in obedience to the laws of the land and  
24 the Commonwealth, the importance of exercising the right of  
25 franchise, the obligation of every citizen to stand ready to  
26 defend our country at all times from infiltration or aggression  
27 by those whose acts and ideologies are contrary to our American  
28 philosophy of life.]

29 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

30 Section 771.1. Program for Development of Citizenship and

1 Patriotism.--(a) All administrators and teachers in charge of  
2 public and nonpublic schools shall conduct appropriate daily  
3 instruction which shall include, but not be limited to, the  
4 Pledge of Allegiance. Daily instruction shall be for fifteen  
5 (15) minutes duration; or in lieu thereof, at least one full  
6 period per week separate and distinct from any other classroom  
7 period. Such instruction shall be for the purpose of affirming  
8 and developing an allegiance to and respect for the United  
9 States of America and its Flag, and for promoting a clear  
10 understanding of our American way of life, with all unparalleled  
11 individual opportunities, and our republican form of government,  
12 with its responsiveness to majority decisions and demands, and  
13 the collective and individual responsibilities of citizenship of  
14 the United States of America.

15 (b) The program shall include:

16 (1) Instruction in the fundamental principals of our form of  
17 government.

18 (2) An understanding of the provisions of the Constitution  
19 of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States of  
20 America.

21 (3) The values to be found in the freedom of speech, of  
22 religion and of the press.

23 (4) The values to be found in obedience to the laws of the  
24 land and this Commonwealth.

25 (5) The importance of exercising the right of franchise.

26 (6) The obligation of every citizen to stand ready to defend  
27 his country at all times from infiltration or aggression by  
28 those whose acts are contrary to the American philosophy of  
29 life.

30 (c) The teacher providing the instruction shall voluntarily

1 sign the Pennsylvania Loyalty Oath and a statement attesting to  
2 his willingness to provide instruction within the spirit of the  
3 program as outlined in subsection (b).

4 (d) Each school entity shall notify the department the  
5 manner in which the instructional requirements of this section  
6 are being met and that the Loyalty Oath and the statement of the  
7 teacher's willingness to instruct within the spirit of the  
8 program have been signed and are on record at the school for  
9 public inspection.

10 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.