

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1728 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SACCONI, REESE, STERN, KAUFFMAN, BLOOM, HAGGERTY,
MIRANDA, JAMES, ENGLISH, V. BROWN, METCALFE, BAKER, SANKEY,
TALLMAN, BENNINGHOFF, SONNEY, MARSHALL, SAYLOR, SWANGER,
CALTAGIRONE, MALONEY, ROCK, GROVE, HAHN, MICOZZIE, FLECK,
CLYMER, GILLEN, MENTZER, MILNE, GINGRICH, WATERS, DENLINGER,
EMRICK, DAVIDSON, KINSEY AND KRIEGER, OCTOBER 1, 2013

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
MAY 7, 2014

AN ACT

1 Providing for the display of the national motto "In God We
2 Trust" in classrooms and other areas in public school
3 buildings.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the National
8 Motto Display Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative findings and declarations.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) The motto "In God We Trust" is part of the history
12 and heritage of the United States. On April 22, 2014, we will <--
13 ~~celebrate~~ CELEBRATED the 150th anniversary of our national <--
14 motto "In God We Trust" on our coins. Although this phrase
15 was not officially established as our national motto until a
16 law was passed by the 84th Congress and approved by President

1 Eisenhower, it was first introduced to the nation by Francis
2 Scott Key in 1814 as words that would be included in our
3 national anthem.

4 (2) It was a Pennsylvanian however, that installed those
5 words on our coins. James Pollock from Milton, Pennsylvania,
6 became our 13th governor serving from 1855 to 1858. He was
7 known as "The Great Christian Governor." Prior to Pollock's
8 term as Governor and as one of the original trustees when The
9 Pennsylvania State University became a charter, he served as
10 a member of the Congress of the United States and became
11 friends with then congressman, Abraham Lincoln. When Lincoln
12 became president, he appointed Pollock director of the United
13 States Mint.

14 (3) Pollock suggested the motto "In God We Trust" be
15 featured on all United States currency. This practice first
16 occurred in April of 1864 when Congress approved the use of
17 the motto on United States two-cent pieces. Since then, the
18 motto has been inscribed on most denominations of coins in an
19 uninterrupted period of time extending from the present back
20 to 1916.

21 (4) In 1956, the Congress of the United States adopted
22 the motto "In God We Trust" as the national motto. It is
23 currently codified at 36 U.S.C. § 302 (relating to national
24 motto). Since 1957, the United States Bureau of Engraving and
25 Printing has gradually incorporated the motto in the design
26 on the reverse of all paper currency.

27 (5) On July 24, 2000, the United States House of
28 Representatives, along with the concurrence of the Senate,
29 unanimously resolved to encourage the display of the national
30 motto of the United States in public buildings throughout the

1 nation.

2 (6) To increase student understanding of and familiarity
3 with American historical documents, historically important
4 excerpts from or copies of the documents should be
5 prominently displayed in public school buildings.

6 (7) The Federal 5th, 9th and 10th Circuit Courts have
7 ruled that displaying the national motto passes
8 constitutional muster so long as the purpose of the display
9 is to advance or endorse the national motto rather than a
10 particular religious belief or practice.

11 Section 3. Display of motto.

12 (a) ~~Board of directors. The board of directors of every~~ <--
13 ~~school district~~ SCHOOL ENTITIES.--EACH SCHOOL ENTITY in this <--
14 Commonwealth ~~shall~~ MAY display the motto "In God We Trust," <--
15 which is declared in 36 U.S.C. § 302 (relating to national
16 motto) to be the national motto of the United States, AND THE <--
17 FIRST TEN AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES,
18 ALSO KNOWN AS THE BILL OF RIGHTS, in each school building.

19 (b) Form.--The display of the motto "In God We Trust" may
20 take the form of, but is not limited to, a mounted plaque or may
21 include artwork as a result of a student contest that ~~will~~ MAY <--
22 be prominently displayed in each school building.

23 (C) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.--THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION SHALL <--
24 PROVIDE EACH SCHOOL ENTITY WITH NOTIFICATION OF THE PROVISIONS
25 OF SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTION OF
26 THE NATIONAL MOTTO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION WITHIN 15
27 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION AND EVERY FIVE YEARS
28 THEREAFTER.

29 (D) DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "SCHOOL ENTITY"
30 MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT, AREA VOCATIONAL-

1 TECHNICAL SCHOOL, INTERMEDIATE UNIT, CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL
2 CHARTER SCHOOL OR CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL.

3 Section ~~20~~ 4. Effective date.

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4 This act shall take effect in 60 days.