

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2919 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY EGOLF, ALLEN, ARMSTRONG, BAKER, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BOYD, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CAWLEY, DAILEY, DALLY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, FEESE, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, FORCIER, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HANNA, HARPER, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, KELLER, KILLION, LEDERER, LEH, LESCOVITZ, MAHER, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McNAUGHTON, METCALFE, MILLARD, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, MUSTIO, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, READSHAW, RIEGER, ROBERTS, ROHRER, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STERN, R. STEVENSON, T. STEVENSON, TIGUE, VANCE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD AND ZUG, OCTOBER 18, 2004

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
OCTOBER 18, 2004

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 display of
6 United States Flag and development of patriotism.

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

9 Section 1. Section 771(c) of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 amended December 9, 2002 (P.L.1334, No.157), is amended to read:

12 Section 771. Display of United States Flag; Development of
13 Patriotism.--* * *

14 (c) (1) All supervising officers and teachers in charge of

1 public[, private or parochial] schools shall cause the Flag of
2 the United States of America to be displayed in every classroom
3 during the hours of each school day and shall provide for the
4 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the national anthem at
5 the beginning of each school day. Students may decline to recite
6 the Pledge of Allegiance and may refrain from saluting the flag
7 on the basis of religious conviction or personal belief. [The
8 supervising officer of a school subject to the requirements of
9 this subsection shall provide written notification to the
10 parents or guardian of any student who declines to recite the
11 Pledge of Allegiance or who refrains from saluting the flag.

12 (2) This subsection shall not apply to any private or
13 parochial school for which the display of the flag, the
14 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the salute of the flag
15 violates the religious conviction on which the school is based.]

16 (3) The supervising officer of each public school shall
17 include, in any report of grade proficiency provided to the
18 parent or guardian of any student, the following:

19 (i) information indicating a student's participation in, or
20 abstention from, the activities specified in paragraph (1); and

21 (ii) other information concerning the student's
22 participation in civics education.

23 * * *

24 Section 2. The provisions of this act are severable. If any
25 provision of this act or its application to any person or
26 circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect
27 other provisions or applications of this act which can be given
28 effect without the invalid provision or application.

29 Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

30 (1) The addition of section 771(c)(3) of the act shall

1 take effect August 1, 2005.

2 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
3 immediately.