

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 592 Session of 2001

INTRODUCED BY EGOLF, BENNINGHOFF, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, ARMSTRONG, READSHAW, YOUNGBLOOD, NAILOR, BELARDI, CORNELL, LYNCH, HENNESSEY, CALTAGIRONE, GEIST, GRUCELA, PHILLIPS, M. BAKER, TRAVAGLIO, VANCE, GEORGE, SOLOBAY, FEESE, TULLI, LAUGHLIN, DAILEY, ORIE, CAPPELLI, WOJNAROSKI, ZUG, DALEY, BELFANTI, WILT, LEDERER, STABACK, WOGAN, TIGUE, DALLY, FRANKEL, SHANER, JADLOWIEC, FAIRCHILD, FORCIER, CLARK, MAJOR, SCHRODER, S. MILLER, FICHTER, SCHULER, PISTELLA, BASTIAN, E. Z. TAYLOR, WALKO, LEH, ROHRER, SURRA, MARSICO, SATHER, CIVERA, McNAUGHTON, WASHINGTON, T. STEVENSON, KELLER, BARRAR, BARD, METCALFE, HUTCHINSON, COLAFELLA, STERN, HASAY, HESS, CLYMER, MICHLOVIC, LUCYK, PETRARCA, COSTA, HORSEY, SEMMEL AND SAMUELSON, FEBRUARY 8, 2001

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 20, 2001

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 the display of
6 the United States flag and for relating ceremonies.

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

9 Section 1. Section 771 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
10 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, amended January
11 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

1 shall, when they are not otherwise provided, purchase a United
2 States flag, flagstaff, and the necessary appliances therefor,
3 and shall display said flag upon or near each public school
4 building in clement weather, during school hours, and at such
5 other times as the board may determine.

6 All boards of school directors, all proprietors or principals
7 of private schools, and all authorities in control of parochial
8 schools or other educational institutions, shall display the
9 United States national flag, not less than three feet in length,
10 within all school buildings under their control during each day
11 such schools are in session. In all public schools, the board of
12 school directors shall make all rules and necessary regulations
13 for the care and keeping of such flags. The expense thereof
14 shall be paid by the school district.

15 All supervising officers and teachers in charge of public,
16 private or parochial schools shall [establish and direct the
17 conduct of appropriate daily instruction or ceremonies, or, in
18 lieu thereof,] cause the Flag of the United States of America to
19 be displayed in every classroom during the hours of each school
20 day, and shall offer the Pledge of Allegiance or the national
21 anthem in grades one through twelve at the beginning of each
22 school day. No pupil may be compelled against the pupil's
23 objection, approved in writing, by the pupil's parent or
24 guardian, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance or to sing the
25 national anthem. In addition, the supervisor, officers and
26 teachers shall MAY offer at least one full period per week, for <—
27 the purpose of affirming and developing allegiance to and
28 respect for the Flag of the United States of America, and for
29 the promoting of a clear understanding of our American way of
30 life, with all of the unparalleled individual opportunities, and

1 our republican form of government, with its responsiveness to
2 majority decisions and demands. Such elements shall be included
3 in this program as instruction in the fundamental principles of
4 our form of government, an understanding of the provisions of
5 the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the
6 Constitution of the United States of America, the values to be
7 found in the freedom of speech, of religion and of the press,
8 the values to be found in obedience to the laws of the land and
9 the Commonwealth, the importance of exercising the right of
10 franchise, the obligation of every citizen to stand ready to
11 defend our country at all times from infiltration or aggression
12 by those whose acts and ideologies are contrary to our American
13 philosophy of life.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.