

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 296 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY RHOADES, PICCOLA, MUSTO, ORIE, PILEGGI, LAVALLE,
TOMLINSON, SCARNATI, O'PAKE, GORDNER, ERICKSON, TARTAGLIONE,
WENGER, WOZNIAK, BOSCOLA, LOGAN, RAFFERTY, KASUNIC,
WONDERLING, ROBBINS, M. WHITE, WAUGH, GREENLEAF AND STACK,
FEBRUARY 15, 2005

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

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
15 of public[, private or parochial] schools shall cause the Flag
16 of the United States of America to be displayed in every
17 classroom during the hours of each school day and shall provide
18 for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the national

1 anthem in each classroom at the beginning of each school day.
2 [Students] Under no circumstances may any teacher, school
3 administrator, board of school directors or other person waive
4 the requirements of this paragraph. However, students may
5 decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and may refrain from
6 saluting the flag on the basis of religious conviction or
7 personal belief. [The supervising officer of a school subject to
8 the requirements of this subsection shall provide written
9 notification to the parents or guardian of any student who
10 declines to recite the Pledge of Allegiance or who refrains from
11 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 * * *

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.