

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1692 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY STERN, SACCONI, BARBIN, COX, PICKETT, MILLARD,
JAMES, AUMENT, BLOOM, V. BROWN, ROCK, BENNINGHOFF, GINGRICH,
R. BROWN, KAUFFMAN, SWANGER, OBERLANDER, GABLER, GROVE,
CLYMER AND DENLINGER, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

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," in terms and courses of study,
6 providing for historical documents, writings and records use
7 in classrooms and censorship prohibited.

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

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 1515.1. Historical Documents, Writings and Records
14 Use in Classrooms and Censorship Prohibited.--(a) No teacher or
15 administrator in a public school entity shall be prohibited from
16 using or reading from, during the course of educational
17 instruction, or posting in a public school building, classroom
18 or event any of the following or any excerpts or portions of the
19 following:

1 (i) The national motto.
2 (ii) The national anthem.
3 (iii) The Pledge of Allegiance.
4 (iv) The Constitution of the United States and the
5 Constitution of Pennsylvania.
6 (v) The Mayflower Compact.
7 (vi) The Declaration of Independence.
8 (vii) The writings, speeches, documents and proclamations of
9 the founders or Presidents of the United States or the founders
10 or Governors of Pennsylvania.
11 (viii) Opinions of the United States Supreme Court and
12 Pennsylvania Supreme Court.
13 (ix) Acts of the Congress of the United States and acts of
14 the Pennsylvania General Assembly.
15 (x) Organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial,
16 Revolutionary, Federalist and post-Federalist eras.
17 (b) The use, reading or posting of the types of documents,
18 writings and records authorized by this section shall be
19 undertaken for educational purposes only and shall not be used,
20 read from or posted to promote or establish any religion or
21 religious belief.
22 (c) No person may impose content-based censorship of an
23 American or Pennsylvania historical document, writing or record
24 based on any religious references contained in such document,
25 writing or record.
26 (d) The Department of Education shall immediately distribute
27 a copy of this section to all school districts, and they shall
28 then notify all public school teachers of the provisions of this
29 section.

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