

A004-0203

10 AN ACT CONCERNING

20 **Education - Public Schools - Patriotic Exercise**

30 FOR the purpose of eliminating the statewide requirement that the pledge of allegiance be said in all public
40 schools; allowing for local control over the administration of patriotic exercises; and generally relating to
50 patriotic exercises in public schools.

60 BY repealing, and reenacting, with amendments,
70 Article - Education
80 Section 7-105
90 Annotated Code of Maryland
100 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

110 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE:

120 **Article - Education**

130 § 7-105

140 (a) This section is enacted so that the love of freedom and democracy, shown in the devotion of all
150 true and patriotic Americans to their flag and country, shall be instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth
160 of America.

170 (b) Each county board shall:

180 (1) Require the display of an American flag on the site of each public school building in its
190 county while the school is in session;

200 (2) Buy all necessary flags, staffs, and appliances for the flags; and

210 (3) Adopt rules and regulations for the proper custody, care, and display of the flag.

220 (c) Each county board shall:

230 (1) Provide each public school classroom with an American flag;

240 ~~(2) Prepare a program for each public school classroom for the beginning~~
250 ~~of each school day that provides for the salute to the flag and other patriotic exercises~~
260 ~~that are approved by the United States government; and~~

270 ~~(3) Require all students and teachers in charge to stand and face the flag~~
280 ~~and while standing give an approved salute and recite in unison the pledge of~~
290 ~~allegiance as follows: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America~~
300 ~~and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty~~
310 ~~and justice for all."~~

320 ~~(d) Any student or teacher who wishes to be excused from the requirements of subsection (c)(3) of this~~
330 ~~section shall be excused.~~

340 ~~(e)~~ (D) Each county board may provide for any other patriotic exercises it considers appropriate
350 under the regulations and instruction that best meet the requirements of the different grades in the
360 schools INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

370 (E) ANY STUDENT OR TEACHER WHO WISHES TO BE EXCUSED FROM THE PATRIOTIC
380 EXERCISES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY BOARDS SHALL BE EXCUSED.

390 (F) ~~Any individual who commits an act of disrespect, either by word or action, is in violation of the~~
400 ~~intent of this section.~~

410 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this act shall take effect on October 1, 2003.

420 MANDATES: Governor-elect Robert Ehrlich
430 Incoming President of the Maryland Senate
440 Incoming Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates
450 Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick

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