

HB231 INTRODUCED



1 HB231
2 IA39Z6W-1
3 By Representatives Ingram, Sells, Yarbrough, Stubbs, Pringle,
4 Lee, Crawford, Easterbrook, Gidley, Bedsole, Shedd,
5 Stadthagen, Estes, Wood (D) (Constitutional Amendment)
6 RFD: State Government
7 First Read: 06-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, relating to public K-12 schools, to require each local board of education to adopt a policy requiring that The Pledge of Allegiance be conducted to the United States flag and a prayer consistent with Judeo-Christian values be conducted at the commencement of each school day in each public K-12 school.

This bill would authorize violations of this amendment to be reported to the State Superintendent of Education and for investigation by the State Department of Education.

This bill would require the State Superintendent, upon the determination that there has been a continued pattern of intentional refusal to comply with this amendment, to withhold twenty-five percent of state funding allocated to the offending local board of education.

This bill would also authorize the Legislature to further reduce the funding to a local board of education following continued violations.

A BILL



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29 TO BE ENTITLED

30 AN ACT

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32 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama
33 of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt
34 policies requiring each public K-12 school to recite The
35 Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and a prayer
36 consistent with Judeo-Christian values at the commencement of
37 each school day; to provide for the report and investigation
38 of violations; to require the State Superintendent to withhold
39 state funding allocated to certain offending local boards of
40 education; and to authorize the Legislature to further reduce
41 funding upon continued violations.

42 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

43 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution
44 of Alabama of 2022, is proposed:

45 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

46 (a) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy
47 requiring each public K-12 school under its jurisdiction, at
48 the commencement of the first class each school day, to
49 conduct:

50 (1) The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag
51 and give all students the opportunity to voluntarily recite
52 The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag; and

53 (2) A prayer representative of the Judeo-Christian
54 values upon which the United States was founded.

55 (b) Suspected violations of this section may be
56 reported to the State Superintendent of Education. Upon the



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57 receipt of a reported violation, the State Department of
58 Education shall investigate the alleged violation. If the
59 State Superintendent, based on the results of the
60 investigation, determines that a local board of education or
61 any school under that local board's jurisdiction has shown a
62 continued pattern of intentional refusal to comply with this
63 section, the State Superintendent of Education shall withhold
64 twenty-five percent of the state funding allocated to that
65 local board of education for the following fiscal year. If the
66 local board of education, or any school under that board's
67 jurisdiction continues to violate this section, the
68 Legislature shall provide for further reduction of funding to
69 the local board of education in the annual appropriation of
70 education funds.

71 Upon ratification of this constitutional amendment, the
72 Code Commissioner shall number and place this amendment as
73 appropriate in the constitution omitting this instructional
74 paragraph and may make the following nonsubstantive revisions:
75 change capitalization, hierarchy, spelling, and punctuation
76 for purposes of style and uniformity; correct manifest
77 grammatical, clerical, and typographical errors; revise
78 internal or external citations and cross-references; harmonize
79 language; and translate effective dates.

80 END OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

81 Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment
82 shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the
83 Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of this
84 state. The appropriate election official shall assign a ballot



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85 number for the proposed constitutional amendment on the
86 election ballot and shall set forth the following description
87 of the substance or subject matter of the proposed
88 constitutional amendment:

89 "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama
90 of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt
91 policies requiring each public K-12 school to conduct The
92 Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America and a
93 prayer reflecting Judeo-Christian values at the commencement
94 of the first class each school day; to require the Department
95 of Education to investigate reported violations; and, if the
96 State Superintendent determines that there has been a
97 continued pattern of intentional refusal to comply, to provide
98 for the withholding of state funding allocated to the
99 offending local board of education and for further reduction
100 of funding for continued noncompliance.

101 Proposed by Act ____."

102 This description shall be followed by the following
103 language:

104 "Yes() No()."

105 Section 3. The proposed amendment shall become valid as
106 a part of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, when approved
107 by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon.
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