

SB13 INTRODUCED



1 SB13
2 GE83266-1
3 By Senator Allen (Constitutional Amendment)
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25
6 PFD: 24-Oct-24



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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 local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each K-12 public school to broadcast or sanction the performance of the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner at least once per week during school hours.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each K-12 public school to broadcast or sanction the performance of the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner at least once per week during school hours.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) During the Battle of Baltimore of the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key visited the British fleet in the Chesapeake



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29 Bay on September 7, 1814, to secure the release of Dr. William
30 Beaney, who had been captured after the British burned
31 Washington, D.C.

32 (2) The release of Dr. Beaney was secured, but Key and
33 Beaney were held by the British during the shelling of Fort
34 McHenry, one of the forts defending Baltimore.

35 (3) On the morning of September 14, 1814, after the
36 25-hour British bombardment of Fort McHenry, Key peered
37 through the clearing smoke to see a 42-foot by 30-foot
38 American flag flying proudly atop the Fort.

39 (4) He was so inspired to see the enormous flag still
40 flying over the Fort that he began penning a song, which he
41 named The Defence of Fort McHenry, to commemorate the
42 occasion, and he included a note that it should be sung to the
43 tune of the popular British melody To Anacreon in Heaven.

44 (5) In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered that the
45 anthem, which had been popularly renamed The Star-Spangled
46 Banner, be played at military and naval occasions.

47 (6) On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed
48 a resolution of Congress that officially designated The
49 Star-Spangled Banner as the National Anthem of the United
50 States.

51 (7) For over 100 years, The Star-Spangled Banner has
52 served to inspire generations of patriotic Americans, and it
53 is imperative that students have exposure to this history and
54 inspiration.

55 Section 2. The following amendment to the Constitution
56 of Alabama of 2022, is proposed:



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PROPOSED AMENDMENT

58 (a) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy
59 requiring each public K-12 school under its jurisdiction to
60 broadcast The Star-Spangled Banner during school hours, at
61 least once per week.

62 (b) (1) A local board of education shall select for
63 broadcast, pursuant to subsection (a), any recording of the
64 first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner that is archived
65 within the Library of Congress and available on the Library of
66 Congress website.

67 (2) A local board of education, alternatively, may
68 adopt a policy allowing, during school hours, for the
69 performance of the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner
70 from original sheet music, archived within the Library of
71 Congress and available on its website, by a school-sanctioned
72 band program, choral program, vocal group, or vocalist.

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

82 Section 3. An election upon the proposed amendment
83 shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the
84 Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of this



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85 state. The appropriate election official shall assign a ballot
86 number for the proposed constitutional amendment on the
87 election ballot and shall set forth the following description
88 of the substance or subject matter of the proposed
89 constitutional amendment:

90 "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama
91 of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt
92 policies requiring each K-12 public school to broadcast or
93 sanction the performance of the first stanza of The
94 Star-Spangled Banner at least once per week during school
95 hours.

96 Proposed by Act ____."

97 This description shall be followed by the following
98 language:

99 "Yes() No()."

100 Section 4. The proposed amendment shall become valid as
101 a part of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, when approved
102 by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon.