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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 and a prayer 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 and investigated by the State Superintendent of Education.

This bill would require the State Superintendent of Education, upon a determination that a local board of education or public school has shown a continued pattern of intentional refusal to conduct The Pledge of Allegiance and prayer in accordance with this amendment, to withhold 25 percent of state funding allocated to the applicable 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
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 public K-12 school to conduct a prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag each day; to provide for the report and investigation of violations; to require the State Superintendent of Education to withhold state funding allocated to certain offending local boards of education; and to authorize the Legislature to further reduce funding upon continued violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

(a) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy requiring each public K-12 school under its jurisdiction, at the commencement of the first class each school day, to do both of the following:

(1) Conduct The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and give all students the opportunity to voluntarily recite The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

(2) Conduct a prayer, provided that no student may be required to recite a prayer. The prayer may be broadcast over the public address system and may be prerecorded or recited live.

(b) Violations of this section may be reported to the



85 shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the
86 Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of this
87 state. The appropriate election official shall assign a ballot
88 number for the proposed constitutional amendment on the
89 election ballot and shall set forth the following description
90 of the substance or subject matter of the proposed
91 constitutional amendment:

92 "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama
93 of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt
94 policies requiring each public K-12 school to recite The
95 Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and conduct a
96 prayer at the commencement of the first class each school day;
97 and to provide a mechanism for the withholding of state funds
98 from local boards of education that fail to adhere to this
99 amendment.

100 Proposed by Act ____."

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

103 "Yes() No()."

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