

## SB5 INTRODUCED



1 SB5  
2 9JG6TPB-1  
3 By Senator Allen (Constitutional Amendment)  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26  
6 PFD: 17-Jun-25



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 public K-12 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 public K-12 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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Bay on September 7, 1814, to secure the release of Dr. William Beanes, who had been captured after the British burned Washington, D.C.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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### PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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

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

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

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

Section 3. An election upon the proposed amendment shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the 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 public K-12 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.