

HB 1446 - AS INTRODUCED

2002 SESSION

02-2411

04/09

HOUSE BILL

**1446**

AN ACT

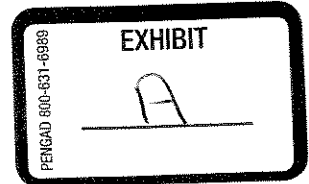
relative to the recitation of the pledge of allegiance in the public schools.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Sapareto, Rock 13; Rep. Jacobson, Merr 2; Rep. Rosen, Belk 7; Rep. Stone, Rock 7; Rep. Milligan, Hills 18; Sen. Gatsas, Dist 16; Sen. Johnson, Dist 3; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Disnard, Dist 8; Sen. Barnes, Dist 17

COMMITTEE:

Education



ANALYSIS

This act establishes the New Hampshire School Patriot Act which requires that school districts authorize a period of time during the school day for the recitation of the pledge of allegiance. Pupil participation in the recitation of the pledge of allegiance shall be voluntary.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Two*

AN ACT relative to the recitation of the pledge of allegiance in the public schools.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Lord's Prayer [~~and Pledge of Allegiance~~] in Public Elementary Schools. Amend RSA 194:15-a  
 2 to read as follows:

3 194:15-a Lord's Prayer [~~and Pledge of Allegiance~~] in Public Elementary Schools. As [~~a~~  
 4 ~~continuation of the policy of teaching our country's history and as~~] an affirmation of the freedom of  
 5 religion in this country, a school district may authorize the recitation of the traditional Lord's prayer  
 6 [~~and the pledge of allegiance to the flag~~] in public elementary schools. Pupil participation in the  
 7 recitation of the prayer [~~and pledge of allegiance~~] shall be voluntary. Pupils shall be reminded that  
 8 this Lord's prayer is the prayer our pilgrim fathers recited when they came to this country in their  
 9 search for freedom. Pupils shall be informed that these exercises are not meant to influence an  
 10 individual's personal religious beliefs in any manner. The exercises shall be conducted so that pupils  
 11 shall learn of our great freedoms, which freedoms include the freedom of religion and are symbolized  
 12 by the recitation of the Lord's prayer.

13 2 New Section; School Districts; New Hampshire School Patriot Act. Amend RSA 194 by  
 14 inserting after section 15-a the following new section:

15 194:15-b New Hampshire School Patriot Act.

16 I. As a continuation of the policy of teaching our country's history to the elementary and  
 17 secondary pupils of this state, this section shall be known as the New Hampshire School Patriot Act.

18 II. A school district shall authorize a period of time during the school day for the recitation of  
 19 the pledge of allegiance. Pupil participation in the recitation of the pledge of allegiance shall be  
 20 voluntary. Pupils shall be reminded that the pledge of allegiance is an affirmation of the freedoms  
 21 we enjoy, and is recited in remembrance of all the people who have sacrificed their lives in defense of  
 22 our country and in the service of freedom.

23 III. Pupils shall be required to stand during the recitation of the pledge of allegiance as a  
 24 gesture of respect to our nation's flag just as the public is required to stand when addressing a judge  
 25 in court as a gesture of respect to our judicial system. If this paragraph shall be declared to be  
 26 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the remaining paragraphs in this section shall not be affected,  
 27 and shall continue in full force and effect.

28 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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