

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 5      (Senator Simonaire)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Addition of "Under God" to the  
Pledge of Allegiance**

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This joint resolution commemorates the sixtieth anniversary of the addition of “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance and encourages Marylanders to learn more about this chapter in their history.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. This joint resolution does not affect State government operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** A brief timeline of the evolution of the Pledge of Allegiance is as follows:

- **1892** – Francis Bellamy composes a pledge to invoke allegiance: *I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands—one Nation indivisible—with liberty and justice for all.* Bellamy later inserted “to” before “the Republic.”
- **1923** – National Flag Conference orders “the flag of the United States” to replace “my flag.”

- **1924** – National Flag Conference adds “of America” to follow “the flag of the United States.”
- **1942** – U.S. Congress adopts the pledge of allegiance as part of a national flag code.
- **1954** – President Dwight Eisenhower signs legislation that approves the addition of the words “under God” following the phrase “one Nation indivisible.”

Similar legislation commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the addition of “under God” has been introduced in several other states, including Delaware and Pennsylvania.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Delaware General Assembly, General Assembly of Pennsylvania, *Smithsonian Magazine*, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2014  
ncs/hlb

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