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By: **Delegates Amedori, Boutin, DeCarlo, Edwards, Elliott, Kach, Kelly,  
Owings, Stocksdale, and Stull**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2002

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Public Schools - Patriotic Exercise**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to require all students  
4 and certain teachers to stand and recite a certain patriotic verse Monday  
5 morning or Friday afternoon; and generally relating to conducting a patriotic  
6 exercise in public schools.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Education  
9 Section 7-105  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Education**

15 7-105.

16 (a) This section is enacted so that the love of freedom and democracy, shown in  
17 the devotion of all true and patriotic Americans to their flag and country, shall be  
18 instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth of America.

19 (b) Each county board shall:

20 (1) Require the display of an American flag on the site of each public  
21 school building in its county while the school is in session;

22 (2) Buy all necessary flags, staffs, and appliances for the flags; and

23 (3) Adopt rules and regulations for the proper custody, care, and display  
24 of the flag.

25 (c) Each county board shall:

- 1 (1) Provide each public school classroom with an American flag;
- 2 (2) Prepare a program for each public school classroom for the beginning  
3 of each school day that provides for the salute to the flag and other patriotic exercises  
4 that are approved by the United States government; and
- 5 (3) Require all students and teachers in charge to stand and face the flag  
6 and while standing give an approved salute and recite in unison the pledge of  
7 allegiance as follows: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America  
8 and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty  
9 and justice for all."

10 (D) EACH MONDAY MORNING OR FRIDAY AFTERNOON, EACH COUNTY BOARD  
11 SHALL REQUIRE ALL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO STAND AND WHILE STANDING  
12 RECITE IN UNISON THE AMERICAN'S CREED AS FOLLOWS: "I BELIEVE IN THE UNITED  
13 STATES OF AMERICA AS A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE  
14 PEOPLE; WHOSE JUST POWERS ARE DERIVED FROM THE CONSENT OF THE  
15 GOVERNED; A DEMOCRACY IN A REPUBLIC, A SOVEREIGN NATION OF MANY  
16 SOVEREIGN STATES; A PERFECT UNION, ONE AND INSEPARABLE, ESTABLISHED  
17 UPON THOSE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND HUMANITY FOR  
18 WHICH AMERICAN PATRIOTS SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES. I  
19 THEREFORE BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO MY COUNTRY TO LOVE IT; TO SUPPORT ITS  
20 CONSTITUTION; TO OBEY ITS LAWS; TO RESPECT ITS FLAG; AND TO DEFEND IT  
21 AGAINST ALL ENEMIES."

22 [(d)] (E) Any student or teacher who wishes to be excused from the  
23 requirements of subsection (c)(3) OR (D) of this section shall be excused.

24 [(e)] (F) Each county board may provide for any other patriotic exercises it  
25 considers appropriate under the regulations and instruction that best meet the  
26 requirements of the different grades in the schools.

27 [(f)] (G) Any individual who commits an act of disrespect, either by word or  
28 action, is in violation of the intent of this section.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 July 1, 2002.