

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 241
Ways and Means

(Delegate Amedori, *et al.*)

Education - Public Schools - Patriotic Exercise

This bill requires all public school students and teachers to stand and recite the American's Creed each Monday morning or Friday afternoon. A student or teacher who does not want to participate is excused from this practice.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local boards of education could adopt and implement the necessary policies with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: American flags are required in each public elementary and secondary school classroom. Students and teachers are required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, although a student or teacher may be excused from the requirement. Local boards of education may provide for other patriotic exercises they consider appropriate.

Background: The American's Creed was written by William Tyler Page in 1917 using passages and phrases from the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, and President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Allegany County Board of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2002
lsc/hlb

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510