

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 885  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Schisler, *et al.*)

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Education - Expressions of Patriotism Protection Act

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This bill allows a teacher, administrator, or librarian to read or post in any school building copies or excerpts of specified national and historic writings and speeches. No censorship based on the religious content of the materials is permitted in public schools and libraries.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Any changes to local school procedures or policies could be made with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Each local board of education establishes the curriculum, subject to State laws and regulations, for public schools in its system.

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

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced in the 2001 session as SB 751 and received an unfavorable report from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2003  
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