



# HOUSE BILL 186: The Stars and Stripes Commitment Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 17, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Biggs, Balkcom, N. Jackson, Bell	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Brian Gwyn*
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *The 2nd edition of House Bill 186 would do the following:*

- *Require public schools to schedule the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance as codified in federal law daily at the beginning of the instructional day.*
- *Require recitation of the Pledge as codified in federal law at meetings of the State Board of Education and the governing bodies of public school units.*

**CURRENT LAW:** 4 U.S.C. § 4 includes the current text of the Pledge of Allegiance and the manner in which it should be delivered.

G.S. 115C-47(29a) requires local boards of education to adopt policies that require all of the following:

- The display of the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom, when available.
- The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis.
- Age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The policies cannot compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If flags are available, they must be displayed in each classroom.

Other public schools must meet the same requirements, including schools for the deaf and blind (G.S. 115C-150.12C(23)), charter schools (G.S. 115C-218.80), UNC School of the Arts (G.S. 116-69.1), and the North Carolina School of Science and Math (G.S. 116-235(i)).

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 186 would provide that the schools required to schedule recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance be required to recite the version as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4 within one hour of the beginning of the instructional day. Additionally, it would require regional schools and laboratory schools to follow the Pledge of Allegiance requirements.

The bill also would require the State Board of Education and the governing bodies of public school units to begin their meetings with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, as codified in 4 U.S.C. § 4. The policy could not require any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would be effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

*\*Brad Krehely, Staff Attorney for the Legislative Analysis Division, contributed substantially to this summary.*

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