



HOUSE BILL 965: National and State Mottos in Schools Act.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations	Date:	June 5, 2018
Introduced by:	Reps. Bert Jones, Johnson, Arp, Shepard	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *HB 965 would require the display of the national and State mottos in a prominent location in all public schools that currently are also required to display the United States and North Carolina flags and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and appropriate \$25,000 for implementation of the act.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, local boards of education, charter schools, innovative schools, and the two high schools operated by The University of North Carolina (the School of the Arts high school and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics) are required to do the following:

- Display the United States and North Carolina flags in each classroom, when available.
- Require daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flags and Pledge.

No person can be compelled to stand, salute the flag, or recite the Pledge.

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 965 would require local boards of education, charter schools, innovative schools, and the School of the Arts high school and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics to display the national motto, "In God We Trust," and the English translation of the State motto, "To Be Rather Than to Seem," in at least one prominent location in the school, and under each motto, designate whether it is the national or State motto. Age appropriate instruction on the mottos would also be required.

The bill would also require \$25,000 in nonrecurring funding be appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction to implement the requirements of the act, including funding purchases of supplies to create displays or mounted plaques.

EFFECTIVE DATE: HB 965 would become effective July 1, 2018, and would apply beginning December 1, 2018.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



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Legislative Analysis
Division
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