



HOUSE BILL 16: General Assembly: In God We Trust - Display.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 18, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Moss, Kidwell, Ward, Pike	Prepared by:	Brad Krehely
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 16 would require the Legislative Services Officer to display the national motto "In God We Trust" behind the dais of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. The act would become effective July 1, 2025.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 120-32.1 addresses the use and maintenance of the State legislative buildings and grounds. The Legislative Services Commission is required to establish a policy for use, provide maintenance and care, provide security, and allocate space for the State legislative buildings and grounds. "In God We Trust" is currently not required to be displayed behind the dais of the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President of the Senate.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 16 would require the Legislative Services Officer to display the national motto "In God We Trust" behind the dais of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. The display must be consistent with the display located directly above and behind the dais of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

The Legislative Services Officer would be required to first use any funds gifted to the State by a private individual or entity for this purpose. If any funds received in this manner are unappropriated, the funds are appropriated to carry out the act.

If no funds are gifted within 90 days from the effective date of the act, the Legislative Services Officer would be able to use available funds to cover the costs of this requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective July 1, 2025.

*Jessica Sammons, Staff Attorney for the Legislative Analysis Division, contributed substantially to the drafting of this summary.

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