



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

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 4, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Biggs, Balkcom, N. Jackson, Bell	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Brian Gwyn
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H186-CSBE-2		Committee Co-Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** *The 1st Edition of House Bill 186 would do the following:*

- *Require public schools to schedule the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily basis at the beginning of the instructional day.*
- *Require recitation of the Pledge at meetings of the State Board of Education and the governing bodies of public school units, in the manner provided by federal law.*

**The PCS would require the Pledge of Allegiance required for public schools to be recited as codified in federal law and make a similar clarifying change for the Pledge required 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:** The PCS would require 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 PCS would also 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 PCS would be effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

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