



HOUSE BILL 496: Patriotic Youth Group Access.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 19, 2026
Introduced by:	Reps. Ross, Bell, Tyson, Ward	Prepared by:	Karyl Smith
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H496-CSCJ-21		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 496 would allow civic youth groups to give presentations about organization membership to students in public schools.*

The PCS would make a technical change by updating the effective date to reference the upcoming school year.

CURRENT LAW: Chapter 115C (Elementary and Secondary Education) of the General Statutes requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to prepare and present to the State Board of Education certain recommendations for general guidelines for encouraging increased community involvement in public schools and use of public school facilities. One of the recommendations is to direct local boards of education to give patriotic youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) priority in using school facilities at times other than instructional time during the school day.

Chapter 115C also encourages schools for the deaf and blind, charter schools, and regional schools to facilitate access for students to participate in activities provided by patriotic youth groups listed in Title 36 of the U.S.C.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of the PCS would direct the SPI to prepare and present a recommendation on requiring public school units to allow any patriotic youth group listed in Title 36 of the U.S.C. the opportunity to give a presentation about the group during the instructional day. Youth group presentations would not exceed 10 minutes or count toward any instructional hour requirements. Nothing in this section would be construed as requiring a public school unit to provide equal access to an organization that is not designated as a patriotic organization.

Section 2 of the PCS would require the following entities to develop policies to ensure that patriotic youth groups listed in Title 36 of the U.S.C. have access to schools:

- Schools for the deaf and blind.
- Local boards of education.
- Charter schools.
- Regional schools.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when it becomes law and apply beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.