

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Requiring the Pledge of Allegiance in Public Schools

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Overview

In 1959, the state enacted a provision requiring educators to teach, on at least one day per week, "subjects and exercises tending and calculated to encourage and inculcate a spirit of patriotism in the students." This provision was repealed in Laws 1993 as part of an effort to repeal obsolete and unneeded mandates. Also in 1959, the state enacted a provision requiring schools to display board-provided flags. This provision (Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.11) remains in effect.

Section

- 1 **Pledge of allegiance.** (a) Requires public schools to conduct a recitation of the pledge of allegiance at least weekly unless a majority of school board members annually vote to waive the requirement. Requires the recitation to be conducted by each classroom teacher or over the school intercom system.
 - (b) Excuses without penalty teachers and students who object to reciting the pledge.
 - (c) Allows school boards that waive the recitation of the pledge under paragraph (a) to adopt a local policy on reciting the pledge.