

As Reported by the House Education Committee

124th General Assembly

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Sub. H. B. No. 394

**REPRESENTATIVES Damschroder, Barrett, Calvert, Carey, Collier, Flowers,
Hoops, Jolivette, Key, Latell, Latta, Lendrum, Metzger, Niehaus, Otterman,
Patton, Roman, Schmidt, Seaver, Seitz, Setzer, Webster, White, Young,
Callender, Reinhard, Fedor, Reidelbach**

A B I L L

To amend sections 3313.601 and 3313.602 of the Revised 1
Code to direct the board of education of each 2
school district to require all students to observe 3
a minute of silence each school day for prayer, 4
reflection, or meditation upon a moral, 5
philosophical, or patriotic theme, and to require 6
school district boards of education to set aside a 7
period of time each day for the oral recitation of 8
the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. 9

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3313.601 and 3313.602 of the Revised 10
Code be amended to read as follows: 11

Sec. 3313.601. ~~No~~ (A) The board of education of each school 12
district shall provide for a minute of silence each school day 13
with participation of all students for prayer, reflection, or 14
meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. 15

(B) No board of education shall prohibit a classroom teacher 16
from providing in ~~his~~ the teacher's classroom reasonable periods 17

of time, in addition to the period of time set aside under 18
division (A) of this section, for ~~programs or meditation upon~~ 19
activities of a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No pupil 20
shall be required to participate in ~~such programs or meditations~~ 21
activities under this division if they are contrary to the 22
religious convictions of the pupil or ~~his~~ the pupil's parents or 23
guardians. 24

(C) With respect to the period of time set aside under 25
division (A) of this section, no board of education of a school 26
district shall adopt any policy or rule respecting or promoting an 27
establishment of religion or prohibiting any pupil from the free, 28
individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the pupil's 29
religious beliefs. 30

Sec. 3313.602. (A) The board of education of each city, 31
local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district 32
shall adopt a policy ~~specifying whether or not~~ requiring that a 33
period of time be set aside each school day for the oral 34
recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the flag ~~shall be as~~ 35
a part of the school's program and, ~~if so,~~ establishing a time and 36
manner for ~~such~~ the recitation. The policy adopted under this 37
division shall not require any student to participate in the 38
recitation and shall prohibit the intimidation of any student by 39
other students or staff aimed at coercing participation. 40

(B) In the development of its graded course of study, the 41
board of education of each city and exempted village school 42
district and the governing board of each educational service 43
center shall ensure that the principles of democracy and ethics 44
are emphasized and discussed wherever appropriate in all parts of 45
the curriculum for grades kindergarten through twelve. 46

(C) Each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational 47
school board shall adopt policies that encourage all certificated 48

and noncertificated employees to be cognizant of their roles in
instilling ethical principles and democratic ideals in all
district pupils.

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(D) The board of education of each city, local, joint
vocational, chartered community, and exempted village school
district, and the Cleveland ~~Scholarship~~ scholarship and ~~Tutoring~~
~~Program~~ tutoring program, shall require each district school to
devote time on or about Veterans' day to an observance that
conveys the meaning and significance of that day. The amount of
time each school devotes to this observance shall be at least one
hour or, in schools that schedule class periods of less than one
hour, at least one standard class period. The board shall
determine the specific activities to constitute the observance in
each school in the district after consultation with the school's
administrators.

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Section 2. That existing sections 3313.601 and 3313.602 of
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

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