

# As Introduced

124th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2001-2002

S. B. No. 240

SENATORS Amstutz, Jordan, Mead, Harris, White, Randy Gardner

---

## A BILL

To amend section 5.01 and to enact sections 5.012 and  
5.013 of the Revised Code to establish requirements  
governing the display and disposal of the state  
flag, to explain the symbolism of the state flag,  
and to adopt an official pledge to the state flag.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

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

**Section 1.** That section 5.01 be amended and sections 5.012  
and 5.013 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

6  
7

**Sec. 5.01.** The flag of the state shall be pennant shaped. It  
shall have three red and two white horizontal stripes that  
represent the roads and waterways of the state. The union of the  
flag shall be seventeen five-pointed stars, white in a blue  
triangular field that represents the state's hills and valleys,  
the base of which shall be the staff end or vertical edge of the  
flag, and the apex of which shall be the center of the middle red  
stripe. The stars shall be grouped around a red disc superimposed  
upon a white circular "O." The thirteen stars grouped around the  
"O" represent the original states of the United States and the  
four stars added to the peak of the triangle symbolize that Ohio  
was the seventeenth state admitted to the union. The "O"  
represents the "O" in "Ohio" and suggests the state's nickname,

8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

the buckeye state. The proportional dimensions of the flag and of 21  
its various parts shall be according to the official design on 22  
file in the office of the secretary of state. One state flag of 23  
uniform dimensions shall be furnished to each company of the 24  
organized militia. 25

**Sec. 5.012.** (A) Display of the state flag at all state 26  
buildings and public institutions, such as public school buildings 27  
and state parks, is encouraged. If the state flag is displayed, it 28  
may be flown every day when weather permits and shall be flown 29  
from sunrise until sunset on all national and state holidays and 30  
on any other days that the governor proclaims. The state flag may 31  
be flown at night when properly lighted. When the state flag is 32  
displayed outdoors, it shall be flown either from a flagpole or a 33  
staff. Any staff from which the state flag is flown shall be at 34  
least two and one-half times as long as the state flag. 35

(B) When the state flag and the United States flag are 36  
displayed at the same time, they shall be approximately the same 37  
size, and the state flag shall not be larger than the United 38  
States flag. When the state flag and the United States flag are 39  
displayed together against a wall from crossed staffs, the state 40  
flag shall be on the left of the United States flag, and the staff 41  
supporting the state flag shall be behind the staff supporting the 42  
United States flag. When the state flag is flown from the same 43  
halyard as the United States flag, the state flag shall be 44  
displayed beneath the United States flag. When the state flag is 45  
carried in a procession in which the United States flag is 46  
unfurled, the state flag shall be displayed on the marching left 47  
of the United States flag. 48

(C) The state flag shall be displayed on the grounds of the 49  
state house when any executive or legislative branch of the state 50  
government is in session. Except as otherwise provided in this 51

division, no flag shall be displayed at the state house unless it  
directly represents the United States government, the military of  
the United States, the government of this state or of another  
state, or local governments in this state. Upon request, flags  
representing other countries may be displayed at the state house  
with the express approval of the capitol square review and  
advisory board.

52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58

(D) The state flag shall be washed or dry cleaned when soiled  
and may be repaired. When the state flag is damaged beyond repair,  
it shall be destroyed privately either by cutting it into small  
pieces and burning it until only ashes remain or by sealing it in  
a plastic bag or box before discarding it in a trash collection.

59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64

**Sec. 5.013.** "I salute the flag of the state of Ohio and  
pledge to the buckeye state respect and loyalty" is hereby adopted  
as the official pledge to the state flag. The pledge shall not  
replace, preempt, or be recited before the pledge of allegiance to  
the United States flag.

65  
66  
67  
68  
69

**Section 2.** That existing section 5.01 of the Revised Code is  
hereby repealed.

70  
71