

**As Reported by the Senate State and Local Government and
Veterans Affairs Committee**

124th General Assembly

Regular Session

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Am. S. B. No. 240

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

A B I L L

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.

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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:

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Sec. 5.01. The flag of the state shall be ~~pennant-shaped~~
burgee-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

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that Ohio was the seventeenth state admitted to the union. The "O" 20
represents the "O" in "Ohio" and suggests the state's nickname, 21
the buckeye state. The proportional dimensions of the flag and of 22
its various parts shall be according to the official design on 23
file in the office of the secretary of state. One state flag of 24
uniform dimensions shall be furnished to each company of the 25
organized militia. 26

Sec. 5.012. (A) Display of the state flag at all state 27
buildings and public institutions, such as public school buildings 28
and state parks, is encouraged. If the state flag is displayed, it 29
may be flown every day when weather permits and shall be flown 30
from sunrise until sunset on all national and state holidays and 31
on any other days that the governor proclaims. The state flag may 32
be flown at night when properly lighted. When the state flag is 33
displayed outdoors, it shall be flown either from a flagpole or a 34
staff. Any staff from which the state flag is flown shall be at 35
least two and one-half times as long as the state flag. 36

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

(C) The state flag shall be washed or dry cleaned when soiled 49
and may be repaired. When the state flag is damaged beyond repair, 50

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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.

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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.

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

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