

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1832

5 By: Representatives M. Berry, Beaty Jr., Bentley, Crawford, Dotson, Haak, Speaks, Vaught, Watson,  
6 McGrew, B. Smith, S. Smith, Slape, Hollowell, Fortner, Lundstrum, McClure, Coleman, Cloud,  
7 Christiansen, Lowery  
8 By: Senators J. English, B. Ballinger  
9

## For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OBSERVE A  
12 MOMENT OF SILENCE FOLLOWING THE RECITATION OF THE  
13 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
14 RECITE THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES  
15 AND SPORTING EVENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

19 TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OBSERVE A  
20 MOMENT OF SILENCE FOLLOWING THE DAILY  
21 RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;  
22 AND TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECITE  
23 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT SCHOOL  
24 ASSEMBLIES AND SPORTING EVENTS.  
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-108 is amended to read as follows:  
30 6-16-108. Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

31 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a policy to require that  
32 ~~public:~~

33 (1) Public school students in grades kindergarten through twelve  
34 (K-12) participate in a daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed  
35 by one (1) minute of silence during the first class of each school day; and

36 (2)(A) Kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public schools



1 lead or broadcast a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by one  
2 (1) minute of silence at the commencement of each school-sanctioned assembly  
3 and each school-sanctioned sporting event.

4 (B) However, if any part of two (2) or more school-  
5 sanctioned sporting events occur on the same day at the same school, a public  
6 school may choose to lead or broadcast a recitation of the Pledge of  
7 Allegiance followed by one (1) minute of silence at only one (1) of the  
8 school-sanctioned sporting events.

9 (b) The policy required under subsection (a) of this section shall:

10 (1) Require that at the time designated for the recitation of  
11 the Pledge of Allegiance students shall stand and recite the Pledge of  
12 Allegiance while facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts or  
13 in an appropriate salute if in uniform;

14 (2)(A) Provide that no student shall be compelled to recite the  
15 Pledge of Allegiance if the student or the student's parent or legal guardian  
16 objects to the student's participating in the exercise on religious,  
17 philosophical, or other grounds.

18 (B) Students who are exempt from reciting the Pledge of  
19 Allegiance under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section shall be required to  
20 remain quietly standing or sitting at their desks while others recite the  
21 Pledge of Allegiance;

22 (3)(A) Provide that teachers or other school staff who have  
23 religious, philosophical, or other grounds for objecting are exempt from  
24 leading or participating in the exercise.

25 (B) If a teacher chooses not to lead the Pledge of  
26 Allegiance, the policy shall require that another suitable person shall be  
27 designated either by the teacher or principal to lead the class; and

28 (4) Require the school to provide appropriate accommodations for  
29 students, teachers, or other staff who are unable to comply with the  
30 procedures described in this section due to disability.

31 (5)(A) Provide for the observance of one (1) minute of silence  
32 following the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

33 (B) During the one (1) minute of silence following the  
34 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, each student may reflect, pray,  
35 meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to  
36 interfere with or distract another student.

1                   (C) Each public school teacher or other public school  
2 employee in charge of students during the period in which the Pledge of  
3 Allegiance is recited and moment of silence is observed shall ensure that  
4 each student remains silent and does not act in a manner that is likely to  
5 interfere with or distract another student.

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