

HB 1403

2016

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the pledge of allegiance; amending  
3 s. 1003.44, F.S.; requiring a written notice of a  
4 student's right not to participate in the pledge of  
5 allegiance to be included in a specific publication;  
6 providing that a student may be excused from certain  
7 actions associated with the pledge of allegiance;  
8 requiring unexcused students to show full respect to  
9 the flag during the pledge of allegiance; providing an  
10 effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1003.44, Florida  
15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

17 (1) Each district school board may adopt rules to require,  
18 in all of the schools of the district, programs of a patriotic  
19 nature to encourage greater respect for the government of the  
20 United States and its national anthem and flag, subject always  
21 to other existing pertinent laws of the United States or of the  
22 state. When the national anthem is played, students and all  
23 civilians shall stand at attention, men removing the headdress,  
24 except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes. The  
25 pledge of allegiance to the flag, "I pledge allegiance to the  
26 flag of the United States of America and to the republic for

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27 | which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty  
28 | and justice for all," shall be rendered by students standing  
29 | with the right hand over the heart. The pledge of allegiance to  
30 | the flag shall be recited at the beginning of the day in each  
31 | public elementary, middle, and high school in the state. Each  
32 | student shall be informed by a written notice published in the  
33 | student handbook or a similar publication pursuant to s.  
34 | 1006.07(2) ~~posting a notice in a conspicuous place~~ that the  
35 | student has the right not to participate in reciting the pledge.  
36 | Upon written request by his or her parent, the student must be  
37 | excused from reciting the pledge, including standing and placing  
38 | the right hand over his or her heart. When the pledge is given,  
39 | unexcused students ~~civilians~~ must show full respect to the flag  
40 | by standing at attention, men removing the headdress, except  
41 | when such headdress is worn for religious purposes, as provided  
42 | by Pub. L. ch. 77-435, s. 7, approved June 22, 1942, 56 Stat.  
43 | 377, as amended by Pub. L. ch. 77-806, 56 Stat. 1074, approved  
44 | December 22, 1942.

45 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.