

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 224

BY SENATORS BARROW, MILKOVICH AND PEACOCK

SCHOOLS. Requires instruction and display of the national motto "In God We Trust" in public schools. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT  
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:262(A), relative to public schools; to require instruction on  
3 the patriotic customs of the United States, including the national motto; to require  
4 each public school governing authority to display the national motto in each building  
5 it uses and in each school under its jurisdiction; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:262(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §262. Flag **and patriotic customs** of the United States; required instruction

9 A. ~~(1) Not later than the 2000-2001 school year, a~~ A program of instruction  
10 on the flag of the United States of America shall be provided to students by the fifth  
11 grade as part of the social studies curriculum in the public elementary schools of this  
12 state. Such instruction, at a minimum, shall include the history of the American flag,  
13 etiquette, customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag, and such other  
14 patriotic ~~exercises~~ **customs** as provided by and in accordance with the provisions of  
15 36 U.S.C. 170 et seq. on patriotic customs.

16 **(2) Not later than the 2019-2020 school year, the program of instruction**  
17 **on patriotic customs required by this Section shall include instruction on the**

1 **national motto, "In God We Trust", and each public school governing authority**  
 2 **shall display the national motto in each building it uses and in each school under**  
 3 **its jurisdiction. The nature of the display shall be determined by each governing**  
 4 **authority with a minimum requirement of a paper sign.**

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 8 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 10 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl M. Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by J.W. Wiley.

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DIGEST

SB 224 Re-Reengrossed                  2018 Regular Session                  Barrow

Present law requires instruction on the flag of the U.S. and other patriotic exercises provided by and in accordance with federal law.

Proposed law includes patriotic customs rather than "exercises" and requires the instruction to include information on the national motto, "In God We Trust". Additionally requires each public school governing authority to display the national motto in each building it uses and in each school under its jurisdiction.

Proposed law specifies that the nature of the display shall be determined by each governing authority with a minimum requirement of a paper sign.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:262(A))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Specifies that the nature of the display shall be determined by each governing authority with a minimum requirement of a paper sign.

##### Senate Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill

1. Makes legislative bureau technical change.