

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1035

BY REPRESENTATIVES HODGES, ADAMS, BAGLEY, BERTHELOT, EDMONDS, GAROFALO, GUINN, LANCE HARRIS, HAZEL, HENRY, HORTON, IVEY, TERRY LANDRY, LEOPOLD, MACK, MCFARLAND, POPE, SCHRODER, TALBOT, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATORS APPEL, ERDEY, MILKOVICH, MIZELL, PERRY, RISER, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

SCHOOLS: Requires local school boards to require students in grades four through six to recite a specified passage from the Declaration of Independence

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:2115(C), relative to required student activities; to require local public  
3 school boards to require students in grades four through six to recite a specified  
4 passage of the Declaration of Independence; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:2115(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §2115. Silent prayer or meditation; pledge of allegiance; Declaration of  
8 Independence

9 \* \* \*

10 C. Each parish, city, and other local public school board shall require  
11 students in grades four through six to recite, at the commencement of the first class  
12 of the day, the following passage from the Declaration of Independence:

13 "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that  
14 they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that  
15 among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure  
16 these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just  
17 powers from the consent of the governed."

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 1035 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Hodges

**Abstract:** Requires local school boards to require students in grades four through six to recite a specified passage from the Declaration of Independence at the commencement of the first class of each day.

Present law requires local school boards to permit school authorities to allow an opportunity, at the start of each school day, for students and teachers desiring to do so to observe a brief time in prayer or meditation. Also requires local school boards to permit school authorities to allow an opportunity at the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades and in all public schools for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proposed law requires local school boards to require students in grades four through six to recite a specified passage from the Declaration of Independence at the commencement of the first class of each day.

(Adds R.S. 17:2115(C))