

House File 166 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 166
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 32)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to public schools, including requiring public
2 schools to display the national motto and the state motto and
3 to start each day of classroom instruction with silent time.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. Or. Be subject to and comply with the
4 requirements of section 279.87 relating to the display of the
5 national motto and the state motto in the same manner as a school
6 district.

7 Sec. 2. Section 256E.7, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
8 following new subsection:

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. A charter school shall start each day of
10 classroom instruction by allowing students two minutes of silent
11 time.

12 Sec. 3. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
13 by adding the following new paragraph:

14 NEW PARAGRAPH. r. Be subject to and comply with the
15 requirements of section 279.87 relating to the display of the
16 national motto and the state motto in the same manner as a school
17 district.

18 Sec. 4. Section 256F.4, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
19 following new subsection:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 5A. A charter school or innovation zone
21 school shall start each day of classroom instruction by allowing
22 students two minutes of silent time.

23 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **279.87 Display of national motto and**
24 **state motto.**

25 The board of directors of a school district shall display
26 the national motto of the United States, established under 36
27 U.S.C. §302, and the state motto of Iowa, established under
28 section 1A.1, in the main entryway of each attendance center in
29 the school district or in another location within an attendance
30 center if the board of directors of the school district
31 determines that such location is more visible to students.

32 Sec. 6. Section 280.5, Code 2025, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 **280.5 Display of United States flag and Iowa state flag —**
35 **silent time — pledge of allegiance.**

1 1. The board of directors of each public school district and
2 the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall provide
3 and maintain a suitable flagstaff on each school site under its
4 control, and the United States flag and the Iowa state flag
5 shall be raised on all school days when weather conditions are
6 suitable.

7 2. The board of directors of each public school district
8 shall administer the pledge of allegiance in grades one through
9 twelve each school day. Immediately prior to the recitation
10 of the pledge of allegiance, each student shall be allowed two
11 minutes of silent time. Each classroom in which the pledge of
12 allegiance is recited pursuant to this subsection shall display
13 the United States flag during the recitation. A student shall
14 not be compelled against the student's objections or those of the
15 student's parent or guardian to recite the pledge.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill relates to public schools, including requiring
20 public schools to display the national motto and the state motto
21 and to start each day of classroom instruction with silent time.

22 The bill requires school districts, charter schools, and
23 innovation zone schools to display the national motto of the
24 United States and the state motto of Iowa in the main entryway
25 of each attendance center or in another location within an
26 attendance center if the school determines that such location is
27 more visible to students.

28 Current law requires school districts to administer the pledge
29 of allegiance in grades 1 through 12 each day. The bill provides
30 that, immediately prior to the recitation of the pledge of
31 allegiance, each student shall be allowed two minutes of silent
32 time. The bill also requires charter schools and innovation zone
33 schools to start each day of classroom instruction by allowing
34 students two minutes of silent time.