

By: Senator(s) Little, Burton, Robertson, Jackson, Minor, Stogner, Smith, Carmichael, Chaney, Dearing, Dickerson, Gordon, Hewes, Johnson (19th), King, Kirby, Moffatt, Posey, Ross, Thames, White (29th), Hyde-Smith

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2321

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-13-5 AND 37-13-7, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE UNITED STATES FLAG SHALL BE  
3 DISPLAYED IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM AT ALL TIMES WHILE  
4 SCHOOL IS IN SESSION, AND TO REQUIRE THE DAILY RECITATION OF THE  
5 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AT THE BEGINNING OF  
6 THE FIRST HOUR OF CLASS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 37-13-5. The flag of the State of Mississippi and the flag  
11 of the United States shall be displayed in close proximity to the  
12 school building, on a proper staff, at all times during the hours  
13 of daylight when the school is in session when the weather will  
14 permit without damage to the flag. In addition, the flag of the  
15 United States shall be displayed in each classroom and in each  
16 principal room of the school building at all times while school is  
17 in session. It shall be the duty of the school boards \* \* \* of  
18 each school district to provide for the flags, proper flag staffs  
19 and their proper display.

20 In all public schools there shall be given a course of study  
21 concerning the flag of the United States and the flag of the State  
22 of Mississippi and said course of study shall include the history  
23 of each flag and what they represent and the proper respect  
24 therefor. Each school district shall provide student instruction  
25 in the proper etiquette toward, correct display of, and respect  
26 for the flag, and in patriotic exercises. The instruction shall  
27 be a part of the district's fifth grade social studies curriculum  
28 or history curriculum, with the assistance of the State Department  
29 of Education. There shall also be taught in the public schools



30 the duties and obligations of citizenship, patriotism, Americanism  
31 and respect for and obedience to law.

32 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-13-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
33 amended as follows:

34 37-13-7. (1) The school boards \* \* \* of all public schools  
35 of this state shall require the teachers under their control to  
36 have all pupils repeat the oath of allegiance to the flag of the  
37 United States of America at the beginning of the first hour of  
38 class each day school is in session, such oath of allegiance being  
39 as follows:

40 "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of  
41 America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under  
42 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

43 Any student or teacher who objects to reciting the oath of  
44 allegiance shall be excused from participating without penalty.

45 (2) The official pledge of the State of Mississippi shall  
46 read as follows:

47 "I salute the flag of Mississippi and the sovereign state for  
48 which it stands with pride in her history and achievements and  
49 with confidence in her future under the guidance of Almighty God."

50 The pledge of allegiance to the Mississippi flag shall be  
51 taught in the public schools of this state, along with the pledge  
52 of allegiance to the United States flag.

53 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
54 and after July 1, 2002.

