

By: Representative Currie

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 310

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE RECITATION OF THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF
3 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST HOUR OF
4 EACH DAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION FOR ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION; TO BRING
5 FORWARD SECTION 37-13-6, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE
6 OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-13-7. (1) The boards of trustees of the public schools
11 of this state shall require the teachers under their control to
12 have all pupils repeat the oath of allegiance to the flag of the
13 United States of America * * * at the beginning of the first hour
14 of each day school is in session for academic instruction, such
15 oath of allegiance being as follows:

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

19 (2) The official pledge of the State of Mississippi shall
20 read as follows:

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

24 The pledge of allegiance to the Mississippi flag shall be
25 taught in the public schools of this state, along with the pledge
26 of allegiance to the United States flag.

27 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-13-6, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
28 brought forward as follows:

29 37-13-6. (1) The flag of the United States shall be
30 displayed in close proximity to the school building, on a proper
31 staff, at all times during the hours of daylight when the school
32 is in session when the weather will permit without damage to the
33 flag. In addition, the flag of the United States shall be
34 displayed in each classroom and in each principal room of the
35 school building at all times while school is in session. It shall
36 be the duty of the school boards of each school district to
37 provide for the flags, proper flag staffs and their proper
38 display. Each school district shall provide student instruction
39 in the proper etiquette toward, correct display of, and respect
40 for the flag, and in patriotic exercises. The instruction shall
41 be a part of the district's fifth grade social studies curriculum
42 or history curriculum, with the assistance of the State Department
43 of Education.

44 (2) From and after July 1, 2002, the school boards of all
45 public schools of this state shall require the teachers under



46 their control to have all pupils repeat the oath of allegiance to
47 the flag of the United States of America at the beginning of the
48 first hour of class each day school is in session, such oath of
49 allegiance being as follows:

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

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

55 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after July 1, 2026.

