

As Reported by the House State and Local Government Committee

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session

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H. B. No. 359

Representative Stein

Cosponsors: Representatives Blessing, Bocchieri, Faber, Galonski, Ginter, Green, Hambley, Johnson, Lang, LaTourette, Riedel, Romanchuk, Scherer, Smith, K., West, Anielski, Arndt, Carfagna, Hill, Ryan

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**A BILL**

To enact section 5.015 of the Revised Code to 1  
create a suggested ceremonial procedure for 2  
retiring an Ohio state flag. 3

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 5.015 of the Revised Code be 4  
enacted to read as follows: 5

Sec. 5.015. (A) The general assembly recommends the 6  
following ceremonial procedure for the retirement of the state 7  
flag, to be followed, voluntarily, with respect and dignity, by 8  
civilians and civilian groups or organizations. 9

(B) The ceremony shall consist of three parts: a preamble, 10  
a pledge, and the retirement by burning of the separated parts 11  
of the state flag. 12

(C) Before the ceremony to retire the state flag, the 13  
dedicated parts of the state flag shall be separated as 14  
specified in division (G) of this section in preparation for the 15  
ceremony. A written preamble as set forth in division (D) of 16

this section shall be provided to all persons upon entering the 17  
premises where the ceremony will occur along with a copy of the 18  
pledge set forth in section 5.013 of the Revised Code. 19

(D) The preamble to the ceremony shall state the 20  
following: 21

I am the flag of the state of Ohio. 22

My first witness to our country as your state symbol was 23  
to the assassination of President William McKinley on September 24  
14, 1901. 25

Our state went nearly one hundred years without a flag to 26  
represent us. 27

The spirit of Ohio is within me. 28

I represent everything: from the hills and valleys, to the 29  
rivers and roadways of our great state. 30

I call our state great for many reasons. 31

Some have called our state the Mother of Presidents. 32

Eight of our nation's presidents have been born among 33  
these hills and valleys. 34

Know that, in my retirement, my spirit must live on. 35

The spirit of Ohio must live on! 36

The history of yesterday, the gifts of the present, and 37  
the future of tomorrow. 38

These principles are woven into me! 39

(E) All persons present who are able, should be asked to 40  
stand at attention with their right hands placed over their 41  
hearts or with the appropriate salute during the pledge to the 42

flag. A speaker shall lead the group in stating the pledge set forth in section 5.013 of the Revised Code. 43  
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(F) After the pledge, the speaker shall ask that the stripes be brought forth, stating: "Please bring forth the stripes of our flag. These stripes represent the roads and waterways of Ohio. Let them now be retired by fire." The speaker shall then ask that the union and stars be brought forth, stating: "Please bring forth the blue union and stars of our flag. This union represents the hills and valleys of Ohio. These stars represent our joining the Union as the 17th state. Now let them be retired by fire. As we continue about our daily lives, keep in mind the spirit of the flag and know that it lives on." 45  
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(G) The dedicated parts of the state flag shall be cut in separate parts including the triangular blue union with stars as one piece, the three red stripes as three separate pieces, and the two white stripes as two additional pieces. The five stripes shall be presented upon the request of the speaker. The blue union and stars shall be presented as one piece upon the request of the speaker. 55  
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