As Introduced

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session 2017-2018

H. B. No. 254

Representative Wiggam

Cosponsors: Representatives Gavarone, Greenspan, Perales, Hambley, Carfagna, Green, Lanese, Johnson, Goodman, Hill, Retherford, Dean, Boccieri, Romanchuk, Arndt, Antani, Reece, Miller, LaTourette, Becker, Patton, Dever, Conditt, Sweeney, Roegner, Pelanda

A BILL

То	amend section 9.50 of the Revised Code to enact	1
	the POW/MIA Remembrance Act requiring the	2
	POW/MIA flag to be displayed at certain	3
	buildings operated by the state on Armed Forces	4
	Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day,	5
	National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans'	6
	Day.	7

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

Section 1. That section 9.50 of the Revised Code be	8
amended to read as follows:	9
Sec. 9.50. (A) As used in this section:	10
(1) "POW/MIA flag" means the flag that depicts the profile	11
of a prisoner of war against the background of a prisoner of war	12
camp watchtower.	13
(2) "Public building" means the principal municipal	14
building of each municipal corporation, the principal county	15

building in the county seat of each county, and the state house	16
in Columbus.	17
(3) "Transportation facilities" has the meaning defined in	18
section 5501.01 of the Revised Code.	19
(B) The general assembly hereby encourages the display of	20
the POW/MIA flag during normal business hours at each public	21
building.	22
(C) Except as provided under division (E) of this section,	23
the POW/MIA flag shall be displayed, according to recognized	24
rules and customs, at buildings operated by the state government	25
on all of the following days:	26
(1) The third Saturday in May, known as Armed Forces day;	27
(2) The last Monday in May, known as Memorial day;	28
(3) The fourteenth day of June, known as Flag day;	29
(4) The fourth day of July, known as Independence day;	30
(5) The third Friday in September, known as National	31
POW/MIA Recognition day;	32
(6) The eleventh day of November, known as Veterans' day.	33
(D) As used in divisions (C) and (E) of this section,	34
buildings operated by the state government include all of the	35
following:	36
(1) The building at 25 South Front Street, Columbus;	37
(1) The building at 25 bouth Flont Street, columbus,	37
(2) The building at 4200 Surface Road, Columbus;	38
(3) The Frank J. Lausche state office building in	39
Cleveland;	40
(4) The James A. Rhodes state office tower in Columbus;	41
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(5) The Michael V. DiSalle government center in Toledo;	42
(6) The north high street complex, 246 North High Street	43
and 35 East Chestnut Street, Columbus;	44
(7) Ohio governor's residence and heritage garden in	45
<pre>Bexley;</pre>	46
(8) Oliver R. Ocasek government office building in Akron;	47
(9) State of Ohio computer center, 1320 Arthur E. Adams	48
<pre>Drive, Columbus;</pre>	49
(10) The Vern Riffe center for government and the arts in	50
Columbus;	51
(11) Buildings at transportation facilities operated by	52
the department of transportation;	53
(12) The state house in Columbus; and	54
(13) State highway patrol posts.	55
(E) (1) Division (C) of this section does not apply to	56
buildings that do not have an installed flag pole on the	57
effective date of this amendment.	58
(2) A building operated by the state government may comply	59
with the requirements of division (C) of this section by	60
commencing the display of the flag during normal business hours	61
on a workday before the required display day, and ending the	62
display during normal business hours on a workday following the	63
required display day.	64
(F) In enacting this section, the general assembly hereby	65
declares and finds all of the following:	66
(1) Over two thousand four hundred Americans, including	67
one hundred seventeen from this state, who served in the United	68

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States armed forces during the war in Indochina are still listed	69
as prisoners of war or missing in action.	70
(2) There is significant evidence that many of these	71
missing Americans are still alive and being held against their	72
will in Indochina.	73
(3) This nation is deeply indebted to its servicemen and	74
servicewomen of all wars and conflicts for their courage and	75
sacrifice and should demonstrate its special commitment to the	76
missing men and women of all wars and conflicts and their	77
families by obtaining the release of those still held prisoner	78
of war and the fullest possible accounting from the responsible	79
governments regarding those Americans listed as missing in	80
action.	81
(4) The POW/MIA flag is a powerful symbol of the plight of	82
these prisoners of war and missing Americans and reminds the	83
these prisoners of war and missing Americans and reminds the public of the commitment this nation must have in determining	83 84
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