

SENATE, No. 2133

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 1997

By Senators CARDINALE, SCOTT, Kosco, Bubba, Ewing,  
Cafiero, Littell, O'Connor, Kyrillos, Kenny and Lipman

1 AN ACT to require principals and teachers of public schools to  
2 conduct an oral recitation before the opening of each school day  
3 and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
4 Statutes.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. Principals and teachers in each public elementary and secondary  
10 school of each school district in this State shall conduct, before the  
11 opening exercises of each school day, an oral recitation of the  
12 following excerpt from the "Declaration of Independence":

13 "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created  
14 equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain  
15 unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit  
16 of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted  
17 among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the  
18 governed . . . ."

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 This bill requires public elementary and secondary school principals  
26 and teachers to conduct an oral recitation of the following excerpt  
27 from the "Declaration of Independence" before the beginning of the  
28 school day:

29 "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created  
30 equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain  
31 unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit  
32 of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted  
33 among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the  
34 governed. . . ."

35 Currently, the statutes require the pupils in each school to salute the  
36 flag and say the pledge of allegiance on every school day

1 (N.J.S.18A:36-3). In addition, N.J.S.18A:36-13 requires that  
2 appropriate patriotic exercises must be held in all public schools on the  
3 last school day preceding certain patriotic holidays.

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8 Requires principals and teachers of public schools to conduct an oral  
9 recitation before the opening of each school day.