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HOUSE BILL NO. 2481

Offered January 23, 1995

A BILL to amend § 22.1-202 of the Code of Virginia, relating to pledge of allegiance in public schools.

Patrons—Ruff, Albo, Cox, Crouch, Dudley, Fisher, Ingram, Katzen, Marshall, May, McClure, Nelms, Nixon, O'Brien, Rollison, Sherwood, Tata, Wagner, Wardrup, Way and Wilkins; Senators: Hawkins, Ouavle and Robb

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-202 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-202. Instruction in history and principles of flags of United States and Virginia; pledge of allegiance to American flag; regulations promulgated by the Board.

A. Instruction in the history of the flag of the United States and the flag of the Commonwealth shall be given in one or more grades in every school division.

B. Consistent with constitutional principles, a school board may require students enrolled in the public schools of the school division to recite daily the pledge of allegiance to the American flag at the beginning of the school day. A school board shall not require the recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the American flag of any student who, together with his parent or guardian, by reason of bona fide religious training or belief, is conscientiously opposed to reciting the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

C. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of subsection B of this section, to be effective on July 1, 1995.