

As Reported by the House State and Local Government Committee

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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

A BILL

To enact section 5.015 of the Revised Code to
create a suggested ceremonial procedure for
retiring an Ohio state flag. 1
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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5.015 of the Revised Code be
enacted to read as follows: 4
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Sec. 5.015. (A) The general assembly recommends the
following ceremonial procedure for the retirement of the state
flag, to be followed, voluntarily, with respect and dignity, by
civilians and civilian groups or organizations. 6
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(B) The ceremony shall consist of three parts: a preamble,
a pledge, and the retirement by burning of the separated parts
of the state flag. 10
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(C) Before the ceremony to retire the state flag, the
dedicated parts of the state flag shall be separated as
specified in division (G) of this section in preparation for the
ceremony. A written preamble as set forth in division (D) of 13
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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 43
forth in section 5.013 of the Revised Code. 44

(F) After the pledge, the speaker shall ask that the 45
stripes be brought forth, stating: "Please bring forth the 46
stripes of our flag. These stripes represent the roads and 47
waterways of Ohio. Let them now be retired by fire." The speaker 48
shall then ask that the union and stars be brought forth, 49
stating: "Please bring forth the blue union and stars of our 50
flag. This union represents the hills and valleys of Ohio. These 51
stars represent our joining the Union as the 17th state. Now let 52
them be retired by fire. As we continue about our daily lives, 53
keep in mind the spirit of the flag and know that it lives on." 54

(G) The dedicated parts of the state flag shall be cut in 55
separate parts including the triangular blue union with stars as 56
one piece, the three red stripes as three separate pieces, and 57
the two white stripes as two additional pieces. The five stripes 58
shall be presented upon the request of the speaker. The blue 59
union and stars shall be presented as one piece upon the request 60
of the speaker. 61