



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

**HB4683**

Introduced 2/18/2020, by Rep. Dan Caulkins - La Shawn K. Ford

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-3

from Ch. 122, par. 27-3

Amends the School Code. Provides that a pupil enrolled in the elementary grades in a public school or other educational institution supported or maintained in whole or in part by public funds shall be required to memorize a passage from the Declaration of Independence prior to completing fifth grade. Inserts the passage from the Declaration of Independence that is required to be memorized. Allows a school or other institution to excuse a pupil from this requirement if the pupil receives special education services and cannot complete this requirement.

LRB101 16835 CMG 66234 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 27-3 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-3) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-3)

7 Sec. 27-3. Patriotism and principles of representative  
8 government; proper use of flag; method of voting; government  
9 ~~Proper use of flag — Method of voting —~~ Pledge of Allegiance;  
10 Declaration of Independence.

11 (a) American patriotism and the principles of  
12 representative government, as enunciated in the American  
13 Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United  
14 States of America and the Constitution of the State of  
15 Illinois, and the proper use and display of the American flag,  
16 shall be taught in all public schools and other educational  
17 institutions supported or maintained in whole or in part by  
18 public funds. No student shall receive a certificate of  
19 graduation without passing a satisfactory examination upon  
20 such subjects.

21 Instruction shall be given in all such schools and  
22 institutions in the method of voting at elections by means of  
23 the Australian Ballot system and the method of the counting of

1 votes for candidates.

2 (b) The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited each school  
3 day by pupils in elementary and secondary educational  
4 institutions supported or maintained in whole or in part by  
5 public funds.

6 Prior to completing fifth grade, a pupil enrolled in the  
7 elementary grades in a public school or other educational  
8 institution supported or maintained in whole or in part by  
9 public funds shall be required to memorize the following  
10 passage from the Declaration of Independence:

11 "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are  
12 created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with  
13 certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life,  
14 Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these  
15 rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving  
16 their just powers from the consent of the governed".

17 A school or other institution may excuse a pupil from this  
18 requirement if the pupil receives services under Article 14 of  
19 this Code and cannot complete this requirement.

20 (Source: P.A. 92-612, eff. 7-3-02.)