

# SENATE BILL No. 119

February 9, 2011, Introduced by Senators COLBECK, GREEN, MOOLENAAR, WALKER, NOFS, EMMONS, CASPERSON, PROOS and PAVLOV and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
(MCL 380.1 to 380.1852) by adding section 1167.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1        SEC. 1167. (1) THE WEEK OF VETERAN'S DAY, NOVEMBER 11, EACH  
2        YEAR IS DESIGNATED AS "CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK" TO BE OBSERVED BY  
3        ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PUPILS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.  
4        OBSERVATION OF CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK UNDER THIS SECTION IS IN  
5        ADDITION TO THE COMMEMORATIVE EXERCISE IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERAN'S  
6        DAY REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 1175.

7        (2) THE BOARD OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A  
8        PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SHALL ENSURE THAT, DURING CELEBRATE FREEDOM  
9        WEEK OR DURING ANOTHER FULL SCHOOL WEEK AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD  
10       OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EACH SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS SHALL INCLUDE

1 APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION CONCERNING THE INTENT, MEANING, AND  
2 IMPORTANCE OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE UNITED STATES  
3 CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING THE BILL OF RIGHTS, IN THEIR HISTORICAL  
4 CONTEXTS. THE STUDY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE SHALL  
5 INCLUDE THE STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE IDEAS EXPRESSED IN  
6 THAT DOCUMENT TO SUBSEQUENT AMERICAN HISTORY, INCLUDING THE  
7 RELATIONSHIP OF ITS IDEAS TO THE RICH DIVERSITY OF THE AMERICAN  
8 PEOPLE AS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS, THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, THE  
9 FORMULATION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND THE ABOLITIONIST  
10 MOVEMENT, WHICH LED TO THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION AND THE  
11 WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

12 (3) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION, THE BOARD  
13 OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL  
14 ACADEMY SHALL ALSO ENSURE THAT, DURING CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK OR  
15 DURING THE OTHER FULL SCHOOL WEEK DETERMINED UNDER SUBSECTION (2),  
16 ALL PUPILS IN GRADES 3 TO 12 ARE REQUIRED TO STUDY AND RECITE THE  
17 FOLLOWING TEXT FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: "WE HOLD THESE  
18 TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT  
19 THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS,  
20 THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS--  
21 THAT TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS, GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN,  
22 DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.".  
23 A BOARD OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL EXCUSE FROM THE RECITATION  
24 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION A PUPIL WHO MEETS ANY OF THE  
25 FOLLOWING:

26 (A) THE PUPIL'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SUBMITS TO THE SCHOOL  
27 DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY A WRITTEN REQUEST THAT THE PUPIL

1 BE EXCUSED FROM THE RECITATION.

2 (B) THE PUPIL HAS A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO THE RECITATION,  
3 AS DETERMINED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY.

4 (C) THE PUPIL IS THE CHILD OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF A FOREIGN  
5 GOVERNMENT TO WHOM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXTENDS DIPLOMATIC  
6 IMMUNITY.