WEST virginia Legislature

2022 regular session

Introduced

Senate Bill 495

By Senator Azinger

[Introduced January 27, 2022; referred  
to the Committee on Education]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-6d, relating to requiring that all graduating seniors in West Virginia pledge an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America as a condition of graduation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. state board of education.

§18-2-6d. Oath to uphold United States Constitution upon graduation.

Upon graduation from high school, all seniors shall pledge an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America as a condition of graduation. The oath shall read as follows:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a graduating senior of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High School, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. So help me God."

The oath shall be given on the day of graduation. If a student is unable to attend the graduation date, either by decision or involuntarily, the student shall take the pledge on a date five days preceding or five days following the graduation date in order to satisfy this condition of graduation.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require graduating high school seniors to pledge an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.