

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2022 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

## **Senate Bill 495**

BY SENATOR AZINGER

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

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
 2 designated §18-2-6d, relating to requiring that all graduating seniors in West Virginia  
 3 pledge an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America as a condition  
 4 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.**

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

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

7 The oath shall be given on the day of graduation. If a student is unable to attend the  
 8 graduation date, either by decision or involuntarily, the student shall take the pledge on a date  
 9 five days preceding or five days following the graduation date in order to satisfy this condition of  
 10 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.