

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Introduced**

## **House Bill 2782**

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Kump, Chiarelli, Phillips,  
Sheedy, W. Clark, Burkhammer, Brooks, and Ellington

[Introduced February 21, 2025; referred to the  
Committee on Education then the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
2 designated §18-36-1, relating to the display of the official motto of the United States in  
3 public elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher education.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 36. DISPLAY OF NATIONAL MOTTO.**

**§18-36-1. Display of the National Motto in schools and state institutions of higher  
education.**

1 (a) A public elementary, secondary school, or a state institution of higher education must  
2 display in a conspicuous place in each building of the school or institution a durable poster or  
3 framed copy of the United States national motto, "In God We Trust", if the poster or framed copy  
4 meets the requirements of subsection (b) of this section and is:

5 (1) Donated for display at the school or institution; or

6 (2) Purchased from private donations and made available to the school or institution.

7 (b) A poster or framed copy of the national motto described in subsection (a) of this section:

8 (1) Must contain a representation of the United States flag centered under the national  
9 motto and a representation of the state flag; and

10 (2) May not depict any words, images, or other information other than the representations  
11 listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

12 (c) A public elementary or secondary school and an institution of higher education may  
13 accept and use private donations for the purposes of subsection (a) of this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to display the official motto of the United States of America  
in public elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher education.

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