

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 280

BY SENATORS AZINGER, TAYLOR, THORNE, ROSE, HART,

BARTLETT, DEEDS, AND MARTIN

[Introduced February 12, 2025; referred
to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding 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 or secondary school or a state institution of higher education shall
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
8 section:

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

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

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