

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 128

By: Helton, Wilkerson, Martin,
Reynolds, Crutchfield,
Campbell, and Nichols of
the Senate

and

Wells, Ferguson, Roberts,
Piatt, Reese, Roan, Adair,
Adkins, Balkman, Benge,
Braddock, Cargill, Cox,
Ericson, Friskup, Hefner,
Hilliard, Jones, Mitchell,
O'Neal, Peters, Peterson,
Pope (Tim), Roggow,
Smaligo, Steele, Tibbs,
Wright and Turner of the
House

An Act relating to schools; designating November 11 as Veterans Day in public schools; providing for observance on certain days; requiring public schools to honor American veterans on Veterans Day; allowing schools to conduct a moment of silence for certain purpose; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 24-106, which relates to the flag of the United States; requiring certain instruction in flag history and etiquette; authorizing students to recite the pledge of allegiance each school day; requiring the posting of notice concerning nonparticipation; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-152 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The date of November 11 is hereby designated "Veterans Day" in and for the public schools of this state. In any year in which the date of November 11 is a Saturday or Sunday or classes are not in regular session, the public schools of this state shall observe the previous school day as "Veterans Day" as provided for in this section.

B. The board of education of each public school district shall ensure that each school in its district will on Veterans Day conduct

and observe an appropriate program of at least one class period remembering and honoring American veterans. In addition, schools may choose if scheduling allows, to have a one-minute moment of silence beginning at 11:00 a.m. on November 11 of each year. The benefit of such activity, in addition to honoring American veterans, is to serve to educate students about the termination of World War I at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918, which was first recognized by United States President Woodrow Wilson on the first anniversary of the truce in a proclamation eulogizing fallen Allied soldiers and referring to November 11 as Armistice Day.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 24-106, is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-106. A. The board of education of every school district in this state shall be required to own and display, either inside or outside each classroom building in the district, a United States Flag.

B. Instruction in the history and etiquette relating to the United States Flag shall be given in one or more grades in the schools in every school district in this state.

C. Students are authorized to recite, at the beginning of each school day, the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America as enumerated at 36 U.S.C., Section 172. Each student shall be informed by posting a notice in a conspicuous place that students not wishing to participate in the pledge shall not be required to do so.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 16th day of May, 2001.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 17th day of May, 2001.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives