AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:262(A)(2) and (B) and to enact R.S. 17:262(C), 3351(O), and 3996(B)(75), relative to public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools; to require display of the national motto in each classroom; to provide relative to the use of public funds for this purpose; to provide for applicability to charter schools; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:262(A)(2) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:262(C), 3351(O), and 3996(B)(75) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§262. Flag and patriotic customs of the United States; required instruction

A.

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(2) Not later than the 2019-2020 school year, the program of instruction on patriotic customs required by this Section shall include instruction on the national motto, "In God We Trust", and each public school governing authority shall display the national motto in each building it uses and classroom in each school under its jurisdiction. The nature of the display shall be determined by each governing authority with a minimum requirement of a paper sign that the national motto shall be displayed on a poster or framed document that is at least eleven inches by
fourteen inches. The motto shall be the central focus of the poster or framed
document and shall be printed in a large, easily readable font.

B. This Section does not require a public school governing authority to spend
its funds to purchase national motto displays. A governing authority may spend its
funds or donated funds to purchase the displays and may accept donated displays.

C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules
and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to ensure
the proper implementation of this Section.

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§3351. General powers, duties, and functions of postsecondary education
management boards

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O.(1) Each board shall require each institution under its jurisdiction to
display the national motto, "In God We Trust", in each classroom on the institution's
campus. At a minimum, the national motto shall be displayed on a poster or framed
document that is at least eleven inches by fourteen inches. The motto shall be the
central focus of the poster or framed document and shall be printed in a large, easily
readable font.

(2) This Subsection does not require a public postsecondary education
management board or a public postsecondary education institution to spend its funds
to purchase such displays. An institution or management board may spend its funds
or donated funds to purchase such displays and may accept donated displays.

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

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(75) Flag and patriotic customs of the United States, R.S. 17:262.

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Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable on and after August 1, 2026.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.