

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4846

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Thorne, Ridenour, Adkins,
Phillips, Kimble, Kump, Burkhammer, Clark, Chiarelli,
and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker)

[Introduced January 17, 2024; Referred
to the Committee on Education then Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §18-34-1, 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 34. DISPLAY OF NATIONAL MOTTO.

§18-34-1. 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 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.