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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 564

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Carmichael, Raga, Carano, Evans, Reidelbach, Cirelli, Fessler, Husted, Seaver, DeWine, G. Smith, Distel, Roman, Collier, Schaffer, Hoops, DeBose, Allen, Rhine, Niehaus, Webster, Lendrum, Damschroder, Aslanides, Latta, Schmidt

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes requirements governing the display, care, and disposal of the state flag.
- Explains the symbolism of the state flag.
- Adopts an official pledge to the state flag.
- Specifies what flags may be flown at the State House.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Display, care, and disposal of the state flag

Display or flying of the state flag--in general

The bill encourages the display or flying of the state flag at all state buildings and other public institutions or facilities, such as public school buildings and state parks (sec. 5.012(A)). It also sets forth requirements that apply to that *governmental* display or flying as well as to the display or flying of the state flag at any *private property* in Ohio. If the state flag is displayed *outside or is flown* at a state building or other public institution or facility, or is displayed outside or flown at any private property, it (1) may be displayed or flown every day when the weather permits and (2) in the case of a state building or other public institution or facility, it must be displayed or flown from sunrise until sunset on all national and state holidays and on any other days that the Governor proclaims that the state flag should be displayed or flown. The state flag also may be displayed or flown on governmental or private property at night when properly lighted. When the state flag is flown on governmental or private property, it must be flown from a

flagpole or staff, and any staff from which the state flag is flown must be at least two and one-half times as long as the state flag. (Sec. 5.012(B).)

Display or flying of the United States flag and the state flag at the same time

The bill requires that, when the state flag and the United States flag are displayed or flown at the same time, they must be approximately the same size, but the state flag must not be larger than the United States flag. When the state flag and United States flag are displayed together against a wall from crossed staffs, the state flag must be on the left of the United States flag, and the staff supporting the state flag must be behind the staff supporting the United States flag. When the state flag is flown from the same halyard as the United States flag, the state flag must be flown beneath the United States flag. When the state flag is carried in a procession in which the United States flag is unfurled, the state flag must be displayed on the marching left of the United States flag. (Sec. 5.012(E).)

Display or flying of the state flag and other flags at the State House

The bill requires that the state flag be displayed at the State House, either inside or outside, or be flown on the grounds of the State House during all hours at which public business may occur at the State House (sec. 5.012(C)). No flag generally can be displayed or flown at the State House unless it "directly represents" the United States government, the military of the United States, the government of Ohio, the government of another state, or a local government in Ohio. Flags representing other countries may be displayed or flown at the State House upon request and with the express approval of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board. (Sec. 5.012(F).)

Care and disposal of the state flag

The bill provides that the state flag must be washed or dry cleaned when it is soiled and that it may be repaired. When the state flag is damaged beyond repair, it must be destroyed either by (1) cutting it into small pieces and burning it until only ashes remain or (2) sealing it in a plastic bag or box before discarding it in a trash collection receptacle. (Sec. 5.012(D).)

Pledge to the state flag

The bill adopts the following as the official pledge to the state flag: "I salute the flag of the State of Ohio and pledge to the Buckeye State respect and loyalty." The pledge must not replace, preempt, or be recited before the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag. (Sec. 5.013.)



Symbolism of the state flag

The bill states that (1) the three red and two white horizontal stripes in the state flag *represent the roads and waterways of the state*, (2) the 17 five-pointed stars, white in a blue triangular field, in the union of the state flag *represent the state's hills and valleys*, (3) the 13 stars grouped around the white circular "O" in the state flag represent the original states of the United States, (4) the four stars added to the peak of the triangle on the state flag symbolize that Ohio was the 17th state admitted to the union, and (5) the white circular "O" in the state flag represents the "O" in "Ohio" and suggests the state's nickname, the Buckeye State (sec. 5.01).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	04-23-02	p. 1705

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