



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Alyssa Bethel

H.B. 359

132nd General Assembly
(As Reported by H. State & Local Government)

Reps. Stein, Blessing, Bocchieri, Faber, Galonski, Ginter, Green, Hambley, Johnson, Lang, LaTourette, Riedel, Romanchuk, Scherer, K. Smith, West, Anielski, Arndt, Carfagna, Hill, Ryan

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates a suggested ceremonial procedure for retiring an Ohio state flag.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Ceremonial procedure

The General Assembly provides through the bill a recommended ceremonial procedure to be used voluntarily with respect and dignity by civilians and civilian groups or organizations when retiring an Ohio state flag.

Separation of flag into six pieces

Before the ceremony begins, the state flag is cut into six separate pieces: the triangular blue union with stars as one piece, the three red stripes as three separate pieces, and the two white stripes as two separate pieces.

Ceremony proceeds with a preamble, pledge, and retirement by fire

All ceremony participants are provided a copy of the state pledge¹ and of the flag retirement ceremony preamble, which the bill establishes as the following:

"I am the flag of the state of Ohio.

My first witness to our country as your state symbol was to the assassination of President William McKinley on September 14, 1901.

¹ "I salute the flag of the state of Ohio and pledge to the buckeye state respect and loyalty." R.C. 5.013, not in the bill.

Our state went nearly one hundred years without a flag to represent us.

The spirit of Ohio is within me.

I represent everything: from the hills and valleys, to the rivers and roadways of our great state.

I call our state great for many reasons.

Some have called our state the Mother of Presidents.

Eight of our nation's presidents have been born among these hills and valleys.

Know that, in my retirement, my spirit must live on.

The spirit of Ohio must live on!

The history of yesterday, the gifts of the present, and the future of tomorrow.

These principles are woven into me!"

Participants begin the ceremony with the preamble. Then, able participants are asked to stand at attention with their right hands placed over their hearts or in an appropriate position of salute while the speaker leads the state pledge.

The speaker asks that the five separated stripes be brought forth, stating "Please bring forth the stripes of our flag. These stripes represent the roads and waterways of Ohio. Let them now be retired by fire." The speaker asks that the union and stars piece be brought forth, stating "Please bring forth the blue union and stars of our flag. This union represents the hills and valleys of Ohio. These stars represent our joining the Union as the 17th state. Now let them be retired by fire. As we continue about our daily lives, keep in mind the spirit of the flag and know that it lives on."² This concludes the ceremonial procedure.

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Introduced | 09-26-17 |
| Reported, H. State & Local Gov't | 12-13-17 |

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² R.C. 5.015.

