



## 2022 South Dakota Legislature

# House Bill 1198

Introduced by: **Representative Phil Jensen**

1 **An Act to require display of the state motto or the state seal in public schools.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That chapter 13-24 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

4 The administrator of each public school shall display, in a prominent location within  
5 the school, either:

6 (1) The motto of this state, "Under God the People Rule"; or

7 (2) The seal of the State of South Dakota.

8 The display of the state motto may take the form of a mounted plaque, student  
9 artwork, or any other appropriate form, as determined by the administrator. The display  
10 must be easily readable and at least twelve inches wide by twelve inches high.

11 The display of the state seal must be at least thirty-six inches wide by thirty-six  
12 inches high.

13 For purposes of this section, the term, prominent location, means an entryway,  
14 cafeteria, or other common area where students are likely to see the motto.

15 **Section 2. That § 13-24-24 be AMENDED:**

16 **13-24-24.** For any lawsuit brought or any complaint filed against a school district,  
17 an employee of a school district, the board of a school district, or a member thereof, as a  
18 result of a school district displaying the ~~national~~ motto of the United States, the motto of  
19 this state, or the seal of the State of South Dakota, in accordance with ~~§ 13-24-23~~this  
20 chapter, the attorney general shall provide legal representation, at no cost to the school  
21 district, employee, school board, or member of the school board.

22 In addition to the expenses of representation, the state shall assume financial  
23 responsibility for any other expenses ~~related expense to the lawsuit or complaint~~ incurred  
24 by the school district, an employee, the board, or member thereof, including any award

- 1 for monetary damages, attorney's fees, and costs for which the school district, an
- 2 employee, the board, or a member thereof, would be otherwise responsible.