

BILL SUMMARY
House Bill 385, Printer's No. 349
Prime Sponsor: Boback

SUMMARY:

This legislation would designate the Honor and Remember Flag as the official flag of soldiers killed in the line of duty and would instruct the Department of General Services (DGS) to fly the flag in Soldiers and Sailors Grove in the Capitol Complex in Harrisburg.

EXISTING LAW:

This bill is freestanding legislation. It was House Bill 2697 of last session, which was reported from the House State Government Committee but was never passed by the full House or Senate.

The flags now displayed in Soldiers and Sailors Grove include the American flag, the state flag and the POW-MIA flag, which are provided for in a Department of General Services Management Directive.

ANALYSIS:

The Honor and Remember Flag was created by Honor and Remember, Inc. and has been adopted in five states: North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia and Utah. In February of this year, the U.S. Congress introduced House Resolution 546 to amend Title 36 to designate the Honor and Remember Flag as an official symbol to recognize and honor members of the Armed Forces who have died in the line of duty.

In March, Utah became the fifth state to officially adopt this flag. The flag was designed by George Lutz, of Virginia, who lost his son in Iraq in 2005, and who has been asking states and the nation to adopt the flag as a tangible emblem of gratitude for those who lost their lives in service to their country.

The flag is predominantly red, with a large gold star and a white stripe that bears the words "Honor" and "Remember."

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act shall take effect immediately.