

Legislative Summary of Florida's **House Bill 1317 – Patriotic Organizations**, enacted during the 2024 legislative session:

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### **Empowering Students Through Civic Engagement**

- **Clear definition & scope:** HB 1317 officially defines "patriotic organizations"—such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boy/Girl Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, Future Farmers of America, Little League, Marine Corps League, and Naval Sea Cadet Corps—as youth groups under age 21 that foster patriotism and civic involvement, aligning with Title 36, U.S.C.
- **Classroom presence made optional yet structured:** The bill encourages school districts—but does not mandate them—to permit these organizations to speak in classrooms and distribute materials during instructional hours. It also opens the door for informational displays within schools.
- **Parental transparency and choice:** Schools opting into the program must:
  1. Schedule specific days and times for presentations.
  2. Notify parents in advance, allowing them to opt their child out of any patriotic organization's visit
- **Ensuring fair access and facility use:** The legislation prohibits discrimination by school districts in granting after-hours use of school buildings or grounds to patriotic organizations. Importantly, it clarifies that districts are not obligated to extend the same access to non-patriotic groups
- **Wide-reaching, non-partisan support:** The bill earned unanimous support in both chambers (118-0 in the House, 39-0 in the Senate), was signed by Governor DeSantis on April 18, 2024, became effective July 1, 2024, and carries no fiscal impact on state or local budgets. Find the final bill summary: [flsenate.gov](https://www.flsenate.gov).

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### **Why It's a Win for Schools & Students**

- **Fosters civic literacy:** By bringing reputable civic-minded groups into schools, HB 1317 enriches education in areas like patriotism, character, leadership, and community service.

- **Respects family choice:** With advanced notice and easy opt-out, parents can decide what's best for their kids.
- **Supports diverse extracurricular outreach:** The after-school access clause ensures students can explore patriotic and civic opportunities within safe, familiar environments.

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Overall, HB 1317 thoughtfully balances encouraging civic engagement with preserving parental rights and district autonomy—helping Florida students connect with civic-minded organizations in a structured, inclusive way.