

UNITED STATES CODE
*Congressional and Administrative
News*

84th Congress—Second Session
1956

Convened January 3, 1956
Adjourned July 27, 1956

Volume 1

LAWS
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

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NATIONAL MOTTO

See Legislative History, p. 3720

CHAPTER 795—PUBLIC LAW 851

[H. J. Res. 396]

Joint Resolution to establish a national motto of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That:

The national motto of the United States is hereby declared to be
“In God we trust.”

Approved July 30, 1956.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND
WELFARE—STATUTES APPLICABLE**

See Legislative History, p. 3721

CHAPTER 802—PUBLIC LAW 852

[S. 3768]

An Act to amend section 158 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended, so as to include the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare among the executive departments there listed, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That:

(a) Section 158 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (5 U.S.C. 1),⁵² is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 158. The provisions of this title shall apply to the following executive departments:

“First. The Department of State.

“Second. The Department of Defense.

“Third. The Department of the Treasury.

“Fourth. The Department of Justice.

“Fifth. The Post Office Department.

“Sixth. The Department of the Interior.

“Seventh. The Department of Agriculture.

“Eighth. The Department of Commerce.

“Ninth. The Department of Labor.

“Tenth. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.”

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) of this section shall not be construed to make applicable to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare any provision of law inconsistent with Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1953 or Public Law 13, 83d Congress, or to supersede or limit any function or authority of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, or any officer thereof, under any law in effect prior to the enactment of this Act, or prevent or limit the expenditure of funds for any such function or authority.

52. 5 U.S.C.A. § 1.

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Volume 2
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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

testimony on the bill as it was originally before the House, was predicated on that understanding.

HERBERT C. BONNER,
EDWARD J. ROBESON, Jr.,
T. JAMES TUMULTY,
THOR C. TOLLEFSON,
JOHN J. ALLEN, Jr.,
Managers on the Part of the House.

NATIONAL MOTTO

For text of Act see p. 855

House Report No. 1959, Mar. 28, 1956 [To accompany H.J.Res. 396]

The House Report is set out.

House Report No. 1959

THE Committee on the the Judiciary, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 396) to establish a national motto of the United States, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

STATEMENT

This joint resolution establishes "In God We Trust" as the national motto of the United States. At present the United States has no national motto. It is most appropriate that "In God We Trust" be so designated.

The phrase "In God We Trust" has received official recognition for many years. It was authorized to be placed on certain coins by the act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 518). Further permissive authorization for inscribing "In God We Trust" on coins was given in the Coinage Act of February 12, 1873 (17 Stat. 427). The first mandatory requirement for the use of this motto on certain coins was in the act of May 18, 1908 (35 Stat. 164). Last year Public Law 140 was enacted making the use of "In God We Trust" mandatory on all currency and coins of the United States.

Further official recognition of this motto was given by the adoption of the Star-Spangled Banner as our national anthem. One stanza of our national anthem is as follows:

"O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto—'In God is our trust.'
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

In view of these words in our national anthem, it is clear that "In God We Trust" has a strong claim as our national motto.

It will be of great spiritual and psychological value to our country to have a clearly designated national motto of inspirational quality in plain,