

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 476**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Carole A. Fiola***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing for alternatives to fines for failure to send.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/24/2023</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>7/10/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 476**

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By Representative Fiola of Fall River, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 476) of Carole A. Fiola and others relative to providing for alternative penalties for failure to send children to school. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 587 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act providing for alternatives to fines for failure to send.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 2 of chapter 76 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
2 paragraph:-

3           Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the court  
4 may, as an alternative to the fine provided herein, order a person in control of a child and the  
5 child described in section 1, who fails to attend school under this section, to attend a counseling  
6 program or other appropriate program or services, as determined by the court. If the court finds  
7 that the child, and a person in control of such child, have successfully completed the court  
8 ordered programs or services the court shall dismiss the charge under this section against the  
9 defendant. Charges under this section shall be assigned to an expedited docket for disposition.