

HOUSE No. 391

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul K. Frost

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 protecting the religious freedom of students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>1/16/2013</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	
<i>James J. Lyons, Jr.</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>1/29/2013</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2013</i>
<i>Kevin J. Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	

HOUSE No. 391

By Mr. Frost of Auburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 391) of Paul K. Frost and others for legislation to protect the rights of students to express religious viewpoints. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2715 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
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An Act protecting the religious freedom of students.

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

1 Chapter 71 is hereby amended by inserting after Section 1B the following section:-

2 Section 1C. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, school districts
3 beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, shall adopt and implement a local policy that allows
4 for a limited public forum and voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints at school
5 events and graduation ceremonies, in class assignments, and in non-curricular school groups and
6 activities. Districts shall treat such expression on an otherwise permissible subject in the same
7 manner as the expression of a secular or other viewpoint and prohibits the district from
8 discriminating against a student based on his or her expressed religious viewpoint. The policy
9 must require the district to ensure that a student speaker does not engage in obscene or indecent
10 speech and to provide a disclaimer that a student's speech is not endorsed or sponsored by the
11 district.