SENATE DOCKET, NO. 213 FILED ON: 1/9/2025

SENATE . . . . . No. 453

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 relative to student absences based on religiously held beliefs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*	
Mehak Sankhla		*2/24/2025*
Peter J. Durant	*Worcester and Hampshire*	*3/17/2025*

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 213 FILED ON: 1/9/2025

SENATE . . . . . No. 453

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 453) of Bruce E. Tarr and Mehak Sankhla, for legislation relative to student absences based on religiously held beliefs. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to student absences based on religiously held beliefs.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end the following:-

Section __: Notwithstanding section 31A, no student shall be punished for an absence when such absence is the result of the observance of a meaningfully held religious belief.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.