

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**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:

*Bruce E. Tarr*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Essex and Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**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:*

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

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

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