

Substituted by the House, on motion of Mr. Cohen of Newton, for a Bill excusing the absence of students for their religious beliefs (Senate, No. 823). September 10.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five.

AN ACT EXCUSING THE ABSENCE OF STUDENTS FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS 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 Chapter 151C of the General Laws is hereby amended by insert-
2 ing after section 2A the following section: —

3 Section 2B. Any student in an educational or vocational train-
4 ing institution, other than a religious or denominational educa-
5 tional or vocational training institution, who is unable, because of
6 his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any exami-
7 nation, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be
8 excused from any such examination or study or work requirement,
9 and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such exami-
10 nation, study, or work requirement which he may have missed
11 because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however,
12 that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreas-
13 onable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be
14 charged by the institution for making available to the said student
15 such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to
16 any student because of his availing himself of the provisions of this
17 section.

18 A copy of this section shall be published by each institution of
19 higher education in the catalog of such institution containing the
20 list of available courses.

Committee on Education and the Labor Force
H. R. 10801
The Committee on Education and the Labor Force has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th day of June, 1981, regarding the above-captioned bill.

The bill is being considered by the Committee on Education and the Labor Force, and it is anticipated that a report will be made to the full House of Representatives in the near future.

Very truly yours,
Chairman

Enclosed for you are two copies of the bill, H. R. 10801, and a copy of the report of the Committee on Education and the Labor Force, dated June 10, 1981.

If you have any questions regarding the bill, please contact the staff of the Committee on Education and the Labor Force, Room 3100, Rayburn Building, Washington, D. C. 20515.

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