

HOUSE No. 1045

By Mr. Parker of Boston (by request), petition of Francis P. Fritchman (for the Civil Liberties Committee of Massachusetts) for legislation relative to requiring teachers and pupils in schools of the Commonwealth to salute the flag and recite the pledge of allegiance. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT RELATIVE TO THE DISPLAY OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES IN SCHOOLHOUSES AND REQUIRING THE TEACHERS AND PUPILS THEREAT TO SALUTE THE FLAG AND TO RECITE THE "PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG".

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 sixty-nine of chapter seventy-one of the
2 General Laws, as amended by chapter two hundred
3 and fifty-eight of the acts of nineteen hundred and
4 thirty-five, is hereby amended by adding at the
5 end thereof the following:— provided, however, that
6 any pupil who has religious scruples and, if a minor,
7 whose parent or guardian, shall file a statement in
8 writing with his teacher, instructor or school com-
9 mittee, stating that he has religious scruples, for-
10 bidding personal participation in said exercises;
11 or any teacher who has conscientious scruples, based

12 on religious beliefs, against personal participation
13 in said salute, may file a statement thereof with the
14 school committee, and he shall thereafter be excused
15 from said exercises;— but no public school teacher
16 shall be so excused from the patriotic instruction
17 required by this act.