

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
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## AN ACT RELATIVE TO 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 SECTION 1. Section 1C of chapter 71, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by inserting, at the end thereof, the following new section:-

3 Section 1D. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, beginning with the  
4 school year commencing after July 1, 2009, school districts shall adopt and implement a local  
5 policy that allows for a limited public forum and voluntary student expression of religious views  
6 at school events, graduation ceremonies, and in class assignments, and non-curricular school  
7 groups and activities. The policy must require the district to ensure that a student does not  
8 engage in obscene or indecent speech and shall provide a disclaimer that students' views are  
9 neither endorsed nor sponsored by the district. Districts shall treat such expression, on an  
10 otherwise permissible subject, in the same manner as the expression of a secular view. Districts  
11 are prohibited from discriminating against any student on the basis of a student's expressed  
12 religious views.