

**As Passed by the Senate**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**Am. H. B. No. 353**

**Representatives Click, Miranda**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Carfagna, Creech, Callender, Gross, Jarrells, John, Lightbody, LaRe, Miller, A., Miller, J., Patton, Russo, Smith, K., Young, T., White, Ferguson, Weinstein, Leland, Addison, Baldrige, Blackshear, Boggs, Brent, Brown, Carruthers, Crossman, Davis, Fowler Arthur, Fraizer, Ginter, Hall, Hillyer, Ingram, Johnson, Kick, Lepore-Hagan, McClain, O'Brien, Oelslager, Richardson, Riedel, Robinson, Roemer, Schmidt, Smith, M., Stein, Stephens, Stevens, Sweeney, Upchurch, West, Young, B., Speaker Cupp  
Senators Johnson, Antani, Antonio, Blessing, Cirino, Craig, Gavarone, Hackett, Hicks-Hudson, Hoagland, McColley, Reineke, Romanchuk, Rulli, Thomas, Yuko**

**A BILL**

To enact section 3345.024 of the Revised Code to 1  
enact "The Testing Your Faith Act" to require 2  
each state institution of higher education to 3  
adopt a policy providing students with religious 4  
accommodations. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3345.024 of the Revised Code be 6  
enacted to read as follows: 7

**Sec. 3345.024.** Each state institution of higher education, 8  
as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, shall adopt 9  
a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held 10  
religious beliefs and practices of individual students with 11  
regard to all examinations or other academic requirements and 12  
absences for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief 13

system. The policy shall satisfy all of the following 14  
conditions: 15

(A) The policy shall permit a student to be absent for up 16  
to three days each academic semester to take holidays for 17  
reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system or 18  
participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices 19  
of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or 20  
spiritual organization. The institution shall not impose an 21  
academic penalty as a result of a student being absent as 22  
permitted in the policy. 23

(B) (1) The policy shall require that students be provided 24  
with alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and 25  
other academic requirements missed due to an absence described 26  
in division (A) of this section, if both of the following apply: 27

(a) The student's sincerely held religious belief or 28  
practice severely affects the student's ability to take an 29  
examination or meet an academic requirement. 30

(b) Not later than fourteen days after the first day of 31  
instruction in a particular course, the student provides the 32  
instructor with written notice of the specific dates for which 33  
the student requests alternative accommodations. 34

(2) An instructor shall accept without question the 35  
sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system. 36  
An instructor shall keep requests for alternative accommodations 37  
confidential. An instructor shall schedule a time and date for 38  
an alternative examination, which may be before or after the 39  
time and date the examination or other academic requirement was 40  
originally scheduled, but shall do so without prejudicial 41  
effect. 42

(C) The policy shall require the institution to post both 43  
of the following in a prominent location on the institution's 44  
web site: 45

(1) A copy of the policy adopted under this section, which 46  
shall include the contact information of an individual who can 47  
provide further information about the policy; 48

(2) A nonexhaustive list of major religious holidays or 49  
festivals for the next two academic years 50

. The chancellor of higher education shall provide each 51  
state institution with a nonexhaustive list of major religious 52  
holidays or festivals for the next two academic years at the 53  
beginning of each academic year. Each state institution may 54  
adopt the chancellor's list in its entirety or choose which 55  
holidays to include on its list. 56

Each time a state institution's policy is posted, printed, 57  
or published, including as described in divisions (C) and (D) of 58  
this section, the state institution shall include a statement 59  
that the list is nonexhaustive, and the list may not be used to 60  
deny accommodation to a student for a holiday or festival of the 61  
student's faith or religious or spiritual belief system that 62  
does not appear on the list. 63

Nothing in this section, and no inclusion or exclusion of 64  
a religious holiday or festival on the list posted by a state 65  
institution, shall preclude a student from full and reasonable 66  
accommodations for any sincerely held religious beliefs and 67  
practices with regard to all examinations or other academic 68  
requirements and absences for reasons of faith or religious or 69  
spiritual belief system provided under this section. 70

(D) The policy shall require instructors to include in 71

each course syllabus a statement regarding the institutions's 72  
policy adopted under this section. The statement shall include 73  
both of the following: 74

(1) A description of the general procedure for requesting 75  
accommodations; 76

(2) Contact information for an individual whom a student 77  
may contact for more information about the policy adopted under 78  
this section. 79

(E) The policy shall include a procedure under which a 80  
student may notify the institution of any grievance with regard 81  
to the implementation of the policy. 82

**Section 2.** This act shall be known as "The Testing Your 83  
Faith Act." 84