SENATE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/12/2009

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

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Mr. Knapik**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to penalties for failure to appear in court.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Mr. Brown | Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex |
| Mr. Hedlund | Plymouth and Norfolk |
| Mr. Knapik | Second Hampden and Hampshire |
| Mr. Tarr | First Essex and Middlesex |
| Mr. Tisei | Middlesex and Essex |
| Todd M. Smola | 1st Hampden |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S00936 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act relative to penalties for failure to appear in court.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 82A of chapter 276 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

            Whoever violates this section on three on more occasions by failing to appear in court to answer for any misdemeanor offense shall be punished by a fine of not more than $50,000 and imprisonment in a state prison for not more than 5 years, or a house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.