

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to school absence due to sickness or
 3 injury; amending s. 1003.24, F.S.; specifying the
 4 types of sickness or injury included under a certain
 5 exemption to attendance policy; providing an effective
 6 date.

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 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 1003.24, Florida
 11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 1003.24 Parents responsible for attendance of children;
 13 attendance policy.—Each parent of a child within the compulsory
 14 attendance age is responsible for the child's school attendance
 15 as required by law. The absence of a student from school is
 16 prima facie evidence of a violation of this section; however,
 17 criminal prosecution under this chapter may not be brought
 18 against a parent until the provisions of s. 1003.26 have been
 19 complied with. A parent of a student is not responsible for the
 20 student's nonattendance at school under any of the following
 21 conditions:

22 (4) SICKNESS, INJURY, OR OTHER INSURMOUNTABLE CONDITION.—
 23 Attendance was impracticable or inadvisable on account of
 24 sickness or injury, either physical or mental, as attested to by
 25 a written statement of a licensed practicing physician, or was

26 impracticable because of some other stated insurmountable
27 condition as defined by and attested to in accordance with rules
28 of the State Board of Education. If a student is continually
29 sick and repeatedly absent from school, he or she must be under
30 the supervision of a physician, or if the absence is related to
31 the student having autism spectrum disorder, receiving services
32 from a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst
33 certified pursuant to s. 393.17, in order to receive an excuse
34 from attendance. Such excuse provides that a student's condition
35 justifies absence for more than the number of days permitted by
36 the district school board.

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38 Each district school board shall establish an attendance policy
39 that includes, but is not limited to, the required number of
40 days each school year that a student must be in attendance and
41 the number of absences and tardinesses after which a statement
42 explaining such absences and tardinesses must be on file at the
43 school. Each school in the district must determine if an absence
44 or tardiness is excused or unexcused according to criteria
45 established by the district school board.

46 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.