

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.; authorizing
 4 district school boards to determine licensed
 5 professionals that may attest to sickness or injury
 6 for a certain exemption to attendance policy;
 7 providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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