

By Senator Jones

35-00824-22

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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.; providing that a
4 written statement attesting to the impracticability or
5 inadvisability of attendance on account of sickness or
6 injury may be attested to by a licensed professional
7 other than a practicing physician, as determined by
8 school board policy; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

24 (4) SICKNESS, INJURY, OR OTHER INSURMOUNTABLE CONDITION.—
25 Attendance was impracticable or inadvisable on account of
26 sickness or injury, as attested to by a written statement of a
27 licensed practicing physician or other licensed professional as
28 determined by school board policy, or was impracticable because
29 of some other stated insurmountable condition as defined by and

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

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

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.