

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, 2022.