

SENATE, No. 189

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Permits school districts to define excused absences from school to include illness based on student's mental or behavioral health and requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for defining excused absence for this reason.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

b. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, shall develop guidelines on defining an excused absence from school for a student's illness based on the mental or behavioral health of the student. The guidelines shall include the supporting documentation that may be required by the school district upon the student's return to school after an absence for an illness based on the mental or behavioral health of the student for the absence to be considered an excused absence.

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29 STATEMENT

31 This bill provides statutory authority for a school district, in
32 developing, adopting, and implementing its policies and procedures
33 regarding attendance of students at school, to define an excused
34 absence from school to include an absence for an illness of the
35 student based on the mental or behavioral health of the student.
36 The bill requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation
37 with the Commissioner of Health, to develop guidelines on defining
38 an excused absence from school for a student's illness based on the
39 mental or behavioral health of the student. The guidelines will
40 include the supporting documentation that may be required by the
41 school district upon the student's return to school after an absence
42 for an illness based on the mental or behavioral health of the student
43 for the absence to be considered an excused absence.