

HB 352 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0223

09/10

HOUSE BILL                    **352**

AN ACT                    relative to excused absences due to a student's mental or behavioral health.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 29; Rep. Kenney, Straf. 10; Rep. DeSimone, Rock. 18;  
Sen. Fenton, Dist 10

COMMITTEE:          Education

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ANALYSIS

This bill requires the inclusion of mental and behavioral health issues as excused absences for students at public schools.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

AN ACT                      relative to excused absences due to a student's mental or behavioral health.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1    Truancy; Excused Absences; Mental Health. Amend RSA 189:34, II(a) to read as follows:

2                      (a) A definition of "excused absence" and a process for considering exceptions to absences  
3    not otherwise excused.

4                      ***(1) The definition of excused absence adopted by each public school shall***  
5    ***have language which includes students' mental and behavioral health as a valid excuse***  
6    ***for their absence.***

7                      ***(2) Public schools shall allow all students who are absent from school due to***  
8    ***a mental or behavioral health issue an opportunity to make up the school work they***  
9    ***missed.***

10                     ***(3) Students shall not have their grades adversely affected by a lack of class***  
11    ***attendance or participation due to mental or behavioral health related excused absences.***

12                     ***(4) Students receiving an excused absence due to a mental or behavioral***  
13    ***health issue shall be considered present by their school during the excused absence period,***  
14    ***for the purpose of calculating average daily attendance.***

15            2    Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.