An Act To Include Student Absences for Mental Health or Behavioral Health Needs as Excusable Absences

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.
Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2019. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Reported by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §3272, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 490, §8, is amended to read:

A. Personal illness health, including the person's mental and behavioral health;

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5001-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 806, §49, is amended to read:

A. Personal illness health, including the person's mental and behavioral health;

SUMMARY

Current law provides that a person's absence from school is excused when the absence is due to personal illness. This bill specifies that a person's absence is excused when the absence is due to reasons of personal health, including the person's mental and behavioral health.