

**Senate File 2067 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2067

BY MATHIS

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for excused absences from school for student  
2 mental health needs.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 299.1, Code 2020, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. The board of directors of a public  
4 school district and the governing body of an accredited  
5 nonpublic school shall adopt a policy permitting a student to  
6 take an excused absence from school for reasons pertaining to  
7 the student's mental health needs. The policy shall allow at  
8 least three such absences per school year. The policy shall  
9 not require that a student provide documentation concerning the  
10 student's mental health needs in order to take such an absence.  
11 The policy shall include a protocol for referring a student  
12 taking such an absence to a school counselor, school nurse, or  
13 other appropriate personnel, services, or resources available  
14 through the school district or nonpublic school or through the  
15 community.

16

EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill requires school boards and authorities in charge  
20 of accredited nonpublic schools to adopt a policy permitting  
21 a student to take an excused absence from school for reasons  
22 pertaining to the student's mental health needs. The policy  
23 shall allow at least three such absences per school year  
24 and shall not require that a student provide documentation  
25 concerning the student's mental health needs in order to  
26 take such an absence. The policy shall include a protocol  
27 for referring a student taking such an absence to a school  
28 counselor, school nurse, or other appropriate personnel,  
29 services, or resources available through the school district or  
30 nonpublic school or through the community.