

2023 -- H 6234

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Introduced By: Representatives Kislak, Henries, Morales, Cotter, Casimiro, Felix,  
Cortvriend, and Caldwell

Date Introduced: March 30, 2023

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 16-19 of the General Laws entitled "Compulsory Attendance [See  
2 Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding  
3 thereto the following section:

4           **16-19-1.2. Mental health days.**

5           Every child subject to the compulsory attendance required by the provision of § 16-19-1  
6 may exercise up to four (4) mental health days as a valid excuse for an absence. These mental health  
7 days may be used similarly as students would take a sick day to address mental or behavioral health  
8 concerns and would be recorded as excused absences.

9           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2023.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

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1           This act would allow students to utilize four (4) mental health days for mental or behavioral  
2 health concerns as an excused absence from school.

3           This act would take effect on September 1, 2023.

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