

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of
2 Georgia Annotated, relating to compulsory attendance, so as to provide that school
3 attendance policies regarding excused absences take into consideration mental and behavioral
4 health; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
8 Annotated, relating to compulsory attendance, is amended by revising Code Section
9 20-2-693, relating to exemptions from compulsory attendance, as follows:

10 "20-2-693.

11 (a) Children during the ages of mandatory attendance as required in subsection (a) of Code
12 Section 20-2-690.1 who are excused from attendance in public school by county or
13 independent school system boards in accordance with general policies and regulations
14 promulgated by the State Board of Education shall be exempt from this subpart. The state
15 board, in promulgating its general policies and regulations, shall take into consideration

16 sickness, including mental or behavioral health, and other emergencies which may arise in
17 any school community.

18 (b) Children during the ages of mandatory attendance as required in subsection (a) of Code
19 Section 20-2-690.1 who are excused from attendance at private schools or home study
20 programs for sickness, including mental or behavioral health, ~~or~~ emergencies, or for other
21 reasons substantially the same as the reasons for excused absences from attendance at
22 public school authorized by state board policy pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code
23 section shall be exempt from this subpart."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.