

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 844 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY KANE, SCHWANK, HUGHES, FONTANA, MUTH, COSTA,  
YUDICHAK, TARTAGLIONE, COMMITTA, CAPPELLETTI AND BREWSTER,  
AUGUST 27, 2021

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, AUGUST 27, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in pupils and attendance, further  
6 providing for excuses from attending school.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1329 of the act of March 10, 1949  
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
11 amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 Section 1329. Excuses from Attending School.--\* \* \*

13 (f) In addition to the excuses from attending school under  
14 this section, a school district shall excuse a student from  
15 school attendance for mental health days each school year. The  
16 number of excuses for mental health days under this subsection  
17 shall be equal to the number of excuses for nonattendance  
18 authorized by the school district for a physical reason under  
19 subsection (a) each school year. As used in this subsection, the

1 term "mental health day" means a day to allow a student to  
2 attain care, rest or treatment to address any of the following  
3 conditions or behaviors:

4 (1) Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

5 (2) Anxiety.

6 (3) Obsessive compulsive disorder.

7 (4) Learning and developmental disabilities.

8 (5) Autism.

9 (6) Substance use disorder.

10 (7) Self-harm.

11 (8) Any other conditions or behaviors as recognized by a  
12 physician or mental health professional.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.