

# HOUSE BILL 26

F1, J1

0lr0301

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Chang**

Requested: July 29, 2019

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Attendance of Students – Lawful Absences – Mental Illness**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that certain absences from school are lawful absences;  
4 requiring each county board of education to develop a certain attendance policy for  
5 students with mental illness that may identify a certain number of absences allowed  
6 within a certain time period; requiring each county board to publish its attendance  
7 policy for students with mental illness on the county board's website; and generally  
8 relating to lawful absences for students due to mental illness.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 7–301.3

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 **7–301.3.**

18 **(A) A STUDENT'S ABSENCE DUE TO THE STUDENT'S MENTAL ILLNESS IS A**  
19 **LAWFUL ABSENCE.**

20 **(B) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A WRITTEN ATTENDANCE**  
21 **POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.**

22 **(2) THE WRITTEN ATTENDANCE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF  
2 ABSENCES DUE TO MENTAL ILLNESS ALLOWED WITHIN A MARKING PERIOD,  
3 SEMESTER, OR SCHOOL YEAR.

4 (C) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL PUBLISH ITS WRITTEN ATTENDANCE  
5 POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ON THE COUNTY BOARD'S WEBSITE.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
7 1, 2020.