

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 1855

H.P. 1326

House of Representatives, December 23, 2019

**An Act To Include Student Absences for Mental Health or
Behavioral Health Needs as Excusable Absences**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2019. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin and
Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, FARNSWORTH of Portland, PERRY of Calais,
TERRY of Gorham.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §3272, sub-§3, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 490, §8, is
3 amended to read:

4 A. Personal ~~illness~~ health, including the person's mental and behavioral health;

5 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5001-A, sub-§4, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 1983, c. 806, §49,
6 is amended to read:

7 A. Personal ~~illness~~ health, including the person's mental and behavioral health;

8 **SUMMARY**

9 Current law provides that a person's absence from school is excused when the
10 absence is due to personal illness. This bill specifies that a person's absence is excused
11 when the absence is due to reasons of personal health, including the person's mental and
12 behavioral health.