

SENATE, No. 3763

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

Sponsored by:
Senator RENEE C. BURGESS
District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Permits students experiencing menstrual disorder to attend school remotely.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning students with menstrual disorders and
2 supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 “Dysmenorrhea” means a disorder that causes severe and
10 frequent menstrual cramps and pain during menstruation.

11 “Endometriosis” means a disorder that causes pelvic pain that is
12 often associated with menstruation.

13 “Menorrhagia” means a disorder that causes heavy or prolonged
14 bleeding during menstruation, often accompanied by a lack of
15 energy.

16 “Polycystic ovary syndrome” means a disorder that may cause
17 cysts and irregular periods.

18 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or regulation
19 to the contrary, a student enrolled in a school district experiencing
20 symptoms of a menstrual disorder shall be permitted to attend
21 school through virtual or remote means, provided that the student’s
22 parent or guardian submits a written request for accommodation no
23 later than the start of the school day the accommodation is required.
24 Menstrual disorders shall include, but are not limited to,
25 dysmenorrhea, endometriosis, menorrhea, and polycystic ovarian
26 syndrome.

27 c. A parent or guardian shall provide any medical
28 documentation as the principal of the school in which the student is
29 enrolled deems necessary to prove the student meets the
30 requirements for virtual or remote instruction related to menstrual
31 disorders under subsection b. of this section.

32 d. If a student attends a day of virtual or remote instruction
33 while experiencing symptoms of a menstrual disorder, it shall be
34 considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance for the
35 purposes of meeting State and local graduation requirements or the
36 awarding of course credit.

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38 2. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
39 Commissioner of Health, shall provide school districts with criteria
40 for defining authorized virtual or remote instruction days related to
41 a menstrual disorder.

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43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill permits a student enrolled in a school district to attend school through virtual or remote means while experiencing symptoms of a menstrual disorder. The student's parent or guardian will submit a written request for accommodation no later than the start of the school day the accommodation is required. Under the bill, menstrual disorders include, but are not limited to, dysmenorrhea, endometriosis, menorrhea, and polycystic ovarian syndrome.

A parent or guardian will provide medical documentation, as required by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled, to prove the student meets the requirements for virtual or remote instruction related to menstrual disorders. Under the bill, a day of virtual or remote instruction will be considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance for the purposes of meeting State and local graduation requirements or the awarding of course credit.

Also under the bill, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, will provide school districts with criteria for defining an excused absence from school related to a menstrual disorder.

Menstrual disorders, and the pain and discomfort associated with them, are often cited as the reason menstruating students miss school days. Menstrual disorders are also fairly common; one in five menstruating students experience menorrhagia, and nearly 70 percent of menstruating students experience dysmenorrhea. Students who attend class while experiencing a menstrual disorder often report classroom performance or concentration being negatively affected. Additionally, nearly one third of students who menstruate report missing at least one day of school while experiencing menstruation.