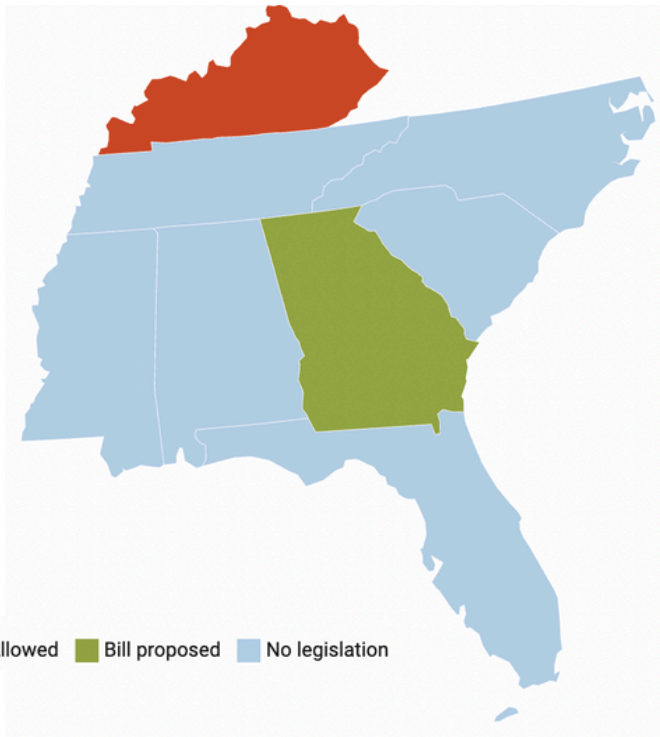



Excused School Absences for Mental Health: Recent Policy Developments in the Southeast United States

Excused School Absences for Mental Health in the Southeast by State



Many states nationwide have proposed legislation to allow students to have excused absences for mental health. The push for such policy measures underscores the urgency of addressing adolescents' mental health challenges. Advocates, including parents and educators, emphasize the positive impact that policies allowing for such excused absences can have on reducing stress and promoting effective learning for students.

Southeast vs 
2 of 8 states (25%) in the Southeast have proposed or passed legislation about excused absences for mental health in schools, as compared to **21 of 50** states (42%) nationally.

Kentucky:
At the end of April 2022, Governor Beshear signed House Bill 44 which would allow students to take days off from school for reasons related to mental health. These would count as excused absences.

Georgia:
In December 2022, House Bill 8 was introduced and would require school attendance policies to consider mental health when determining excused absences. This bill has not yet been brought to the floor for a vote.

- States With No Legislation:**
- Alabama
 - Florida
 - Mississippi
 - North Carolina
 - South Carolina
 - Tennessee

References:
1. "These Are the US States Allowing Student Mental Health Days," Kate Nelson and Adam England, 03/09/2023, <https://www.verywellmind.com/>

Databases Utilized:
1. Legiscan - legislative tracking service , data collected from 2009 to 03/2024, search terms: school attendance policy, mental health
2. FastDemocracy - legislative bill tracking service, data collected from 2013 to 03/2024, search terms: attendance policy, student, health