

2 SSB 5329 - S AMD 061
3 By Senator Honeyford

4
5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. I.** The legislature finds that an employee who
8 is a crime victim may need to take leave from work in order to
9 participate in legal proceedings, obtain medical treatment, and obtain
10 other necessary services arising from the crime. The legislature also
11 finds that the demands of the workplace, the needs of the criminal
12 justice system, and the needs of crime victims must be balanced in
13 order to have economic security and a well-functioning society. The
14 legislature further finds that employers today, especially small
15 businesses, face a complicated array of mandated leave requirements
16 that overlap and are difficult to administer. The legislature
17 therefore establishes a joint select committee to study and make
18 findings and recommendations related to leave from employment for crime
19 victims, and identify potential improvements to other related leave
20 laws that might reduce the burden on businesses and create greater
21 flexibility for workers.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. II.** (1) There is hereby created a joint select
23 committee on leave from employment for crime victims composed of the
24 following four voting members:

25 (a) Two members of the senate labor, commerce and financial
26 institutions committee, one from each of the major caucuses, to be
27 appointed by the president of the senate; and

28 (b) Two members of the house of representatives commerce and labor
29 committee, one from each of the major caucuses, to be appointed by the
30 co-speakers of the house of representatives.

31 (2) The task force shall consult with and be advised by an advisory
32 committee consisting of the following eight nonvoting members:

33 (a) Two members representing labor, appointed jointly by the
34 president of the senate and the co-speakers of the house of
35 representatives, from a list of names submitted by a state-wide

1 organization representing a cross-section and majority of organized
2 labor in the state;

3 (b) Two members representing business, appointed jointly by the
4 president of the senate and the co-speakers of the house of
5 representatives, from a list of names submitted by a state-wide
6 organization of employers representing a majority of employers of the
7 state;

8 (c) One representative of the employment security department;

9 (d) One representative of the department of labor and industries;

10 (e) One representative of the department of social and health
11 services; and

12 (f) One representative of the office of financial management.

13 (3) The senate committee services and house office of program research,
14 as directed, shall provide support to the joint select committee. In
15 addition, if requested, the labor market and economic analysis branch
16 of the employment security department, or other state agency staff
17 shall assist the joint select committee with its duties.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. III.** The joint select committee, in
19 consultation with the advisory committee, shall study and make findings
20 and recommendations related to the following aspects of leave from
21 employment for crime victims:

22 (1) The number of workers that would require such leave from employment
23 each year and for what reasons a crime victim may need to take leave
24 from employment;

25 (2) The extent to which state and federal mandated leave is currently
26 available to crime victims and the extent to which employers already
27 have programs in place to accommodate crime victims without legal
28 requirements to do so;

29 (3) The extent to which additional leave, if any, may be necessary;

30 (4) To what types of crimes should such leave apply and to what size of
31 employer should such leave requirements apply;

32 (5) What remedies, if any, should be available for crime victims denied
33 leave;

34 (6) The extent to which such leave requirements would impose additional
35 hardships on employers and the extent to which remedies are available
36 to minimize such hardships;

37 (7) The extent to which consistency between state and federal leave
38 laws can be achieved and the extent to which improvements can be made

1 to existing leave laws to reduce the burden on businesses and create
2 greater flexibility for workers;

3 (8) The extent to which changes, if any, in state and federal laws are
4 necessary to implement the findings and recommendations of this
5 committee; and

6 (9) Any other issues identified by the joint select committee.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. IV.** The joint select committee shall report its
8 findings and recommendations to the labor, commerce and financial
9 institutions committee of the senate, and to the commerce and labor
10 committee of the house of representatives by December 1, 2001.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. V.** The joint select committee and the advisory
12 committee on leave from employment for crime victims expire July 1,
13 2002."

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17 On page 1, on line 1 of the title, after "victims;", strike the
18 remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections"

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EFFECT: Creates a task force and advisory committee to study on
leave from employment for crime victims.