

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2739

As Reported by House Committee On:
State Government & Tribal Relations

Title: An act relating to adjusting certain requirements of the shared leave program.

Brief Description: Adjusting certain requirements of the shared leave program.

Sponsors: Representatives Kloba, Stonier, Appleton, Davis and Duerr.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Relations: 1/29/20, 1/31/20 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides that state employees seeking shared leave due to illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition are not required to deplete all of their annual and sick leave before receiving shared leave.
- Allows intermittent and nonconsecutive use of shared leave.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Gregerson, Chair; Pellicciotti, Vice Chair; Walsh, Ranking Minority Member; Goehner, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Dolan, Hudgins, Mosbrucker and Smith.

Staff: Carrington Skinner (786-7192).

Background:

The shared leave program permits state employees to provide annual leave, sick leave, or personal holidays to fellow employees experiencing certain circumstances that may cause them to take leave without pay or terminate their employment. Covered employees include those employed by school districts and educational service districts.

Agency heads may permit an employee to receive shared leave in specified circumstances, including when the employee, or a relative or household member of the employee, suffers

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from an extraordinary or severe illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition. To qualify for shared leave under this condition, an employee must have depleted or will shortly deplete his or her annual leave and sick leave reserves. The Office of Financial Management and the Superintendent of Public Instruction administer rules that implement the shared leave program consistent with state law, including the requirement that employees must first use all of certain types of leave before using shared leave.

Within certain parameters, agency heads determine the amount of leave, if any, an employee may receive. Any unused leave is returned at its original value to the employee or employees who transferred the leave when the agency head finds the leave is no longer needed or will not be needed at a future time in connection with the underlying condition. Unused leave may not be returned until certain conditions are met.

Summary of Bill:

Employees seeking shared leave due to illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition are not required to deplete all of their annual and sick leave before receiving shared leave. Agency heads may not prevent state employees from using shared leave intermittently or on nonconsecutive days so long as the leave has not been returned under specified procedures for unused leave.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill originated with a constituent who teaches in the Edmonds School District and has a child with multiple chronic conditions that require intermittent attention. He found that, given current policy, employees would be required to be on full-time leave and exhaust all or nearly all leave to accept shared leave. Across Washington, many people going through difficult circumstances are helped by caring colleagues that support them through shared leave donations. This bill provides clarification on current law and also helps people who have intermittent health needs.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Kloba, prime sponsor; Lorrell Noahr, Washington Education Association; and Matt Zuvich, Washington Federation of State Employees.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.