

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2266

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to leave sharing.

Brief Description: Revising the state leave sharing program.

Sponsors: By Representatives Hunt and Romero.

Brief History:

First Special Session

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 6/4/03, 92-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 6/5/03, 44-0.

House Concurred.

Passed House: 6/6/03, 94-0.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Permits donation of leave to state employees who are called to voluntary and involuntary service in the armed forces, the national guard, the coast guard, the commissioned public health service, or other categories of emergency service designated by the President of the United States, and who have depleted their paid leave.
- Reduces the sick leave balance that must be maintained by leave-donating employees from 480 hours or 60 days to 167 hours or 22 days.
- Removes the restriction on employees donating more than six days of sick leave during a 12 month period.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority/Minority Report: None.

Staff: David Pringle (786-7310).

Background:

In 1989 the Legislature created a leave sharing program. The leave sharing program permits state agency, school district, and education school district employees to donate some of their annual or sick leave to a fellow employee who faces losing his or her job or going on leave without pay due to an extraordinary illness or injury that has caused that employee to deplete his or her sick and annual leave reserves. The illness or injury may be to an employee, a relative, or a member of the employee's household.

Employees may transfer a specified amount of sick leave to an employee requesting shared leave as long as they maintain a minimum of 480 hours or 60 days of sick leave after the transfer. An employee may transfer no more than six days of sick leave during any 12 month period. Employees may also donate any amount of annual leave as long as they maintain a balance of 10 days.

The agency head determines the amount of leave, if any, an employee may receive under this section; however, an employee may not receive a total of more than 261 days of leave.

State employees are entitled to 15 days of military leave with pay each year in addition to any other vacation and sick leave they earn. Employees who take more than 15 days of military leave in a year may do so without pay, and are granted substantial rights to return to their former positions upon return.

Summary of Bill:

An agency head may permit an employee to receive donated annual or sick leave if the employee has been called to service in the uniformed services and his or her own annual leave and paid military leave are depleted. This service includes voluntary or involuntary service in the armed forces, the national guard, the commissioned public health services, the coast guard, or any other category of persons designated by the President of the United States in time of war or national emergency.

The amount of sick leave that must be retained by employees donating leave is lowered. An employee donating sick leave must maintain a minimum of 176 hours or 22 days of sick leave after the transfer. The restriction on employees transferring more than six days of sick leave during any 12 month period is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: None.