
SENATE BILL 5295

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Ranker, Hasegawa, Keiser, and Chase; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 01/19/17. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding the use of shared leave for employees
2 who are sick or temporarily disabled because of pregnancy disability
3 or for the purposes of parental leave to bond with the employee's
4 newborn, adoptive, or foster child; amending RCW 41.04.650,
5 41.04.655, 41.04.660, and 41.04.665; providing an effective date; and
6 declaring an emergency.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.04.650 and 1989 c 93 s 1 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 The legislature finds that: (1) State employees historically have
11 joined together to help their fellow employees who suffer from, or
12 have relatives or household members suffering from, an extraordinary
13 or severe illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental
14 condition which prevents the individual from working and causes great
15 economic and emotional distress to the employee and his or her
16 family; ~~((and))~~ (2) state employees have also joined together to help
17 their fellow employees who are sick or temporarily disabled because
18 of pregnancy disability or for the purpose of parental leave to bond
19 with the employee's newborn, adoptive, or foster child; and (3) these
20 circumstances may be exacerbated because the affected employees use
21 all their accrued sick leave and annual leave and are forced to take

1 leave without pay or terminate their employment. Therefore, the
2 legislature intends to provide for the establishment of a leave
3 sharing program.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.04.655 and 2008 c 36 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
7 this section apply throughout RCW 41.04.650 through 41.04.670,
8 28A.400.380, and section 7, chapter 93, Laws of 1989.

9 (1) "Domestic violence" means: (a) Physical harm, bodily injury,
10 assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily
11 injury, or assault, between family or household members as defined in
12 RCW 26.50.010; (b) sexual assault of one family or household member
13 by another family or household member; or (c) stalking as defined in
14 RCW 9A.46.110 of one family or household member by another family or
15 household member.

16 (2) "Employee" means any employee of the state, including
17 employees of school districts and educational service districts, who
18 are entitled to accrue sick leave or annual leave and for whom
19 accurate leave records are maintained.

20 (3) "Parental leave" means leave to bond and care for a newborn
21 child after birth or to bond and care for a child after placement for
22 adoption or foster care, for a period of up to sixteen weeks after
23 the birth or placement.

24 (4) "Pregnancy disability" means a pregnancy or childbirth
25 related disability as defined in WAC 162-30-020.

26 (5) "Program" means the leave sharing program established in RCW
27 41.04.660.

28 ((+4)) (6) "Service in the uniformed services" means the
29 performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a
30 uniformed service under competent authority and includes active duty,
31 active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive
32 duty training, full-time national guard duty including state-ordered
33 active duty, and a period for which a person is absent from a
34 position of employment for the purpose of an examination to determine
35 the fitness of the person to perform any such duty.

36 ((+5)) (7) "Sexual assault" has the same meaning as set forth in
37 RCW 70.125.030.

38 ((+6)) (8) "Stalking" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW
39 9A.46.110.

1 (~~(7)~~) (9) "State agency" or "agency" means departments,
2 offices, agencies, or institutions of state government, the
3 legislature, institutions of higher education, school districts, and
4 educational service districts.

5 (~~(8)~~) (10) "Uniformed services" means the armed forces, the
6 army national guard, and the air national guard of any state,
7 territory, commonwealth, possession, or district when engaged in
8 active duty for training, inactive duty training, full-time national
9 guard duty, or state active duty, the commissioned corps of the
10 public health service, the coast guard, and any other category of
11 persons designated by the president of the United States in time of
12 war or national emergency.

13 (~~(9)~~) (11) "Victim" means a person against whom domestic
14 violence, sexual assault, or stalking has been committed as defined
15 in this section.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 41.04.660 and 2008 c 36 s 2 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 The Washington state leave sharing program is hereby created. The
19 purpose of the program is to permit state employees, at no
20 significantly increased cost to the state of providing annual leave,
21 sick leave, or personal holidays, to come to the aid of a fellow
22 state employee who is suffering from or has a relative or household
23 member suffering from an extraordinary or severe illness, injury,
24 impairment, or physical or mental condition; a fellow state employee
25 who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; a
26 fellow state employee who is sick or temporarily disabled because of
27 pregnancy disability or for the purpose of parental leave; or a
28 fellow state employee who has been called to service in the uniformed
29 services, which has caused or is likely to cause the employee to take
30 leave without pay or terminate his or her employment.

31 **Sec. 4.** RCW 41.04.665 and 2016 c 177 s 1 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) An agency head may permit an employee to receive leave under
34 this section if:

35 (a)(i) The employee suffers from, or has a relative or household
36 member suffering from, an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or
37 mental condition which is of an extraordinary or severe nature;

1 (ii) The employee has been called to service in the uniformed
2 services;

3 (iii) A state of emergency has been declared anywhere within the
4 United States by the federal or any state government and the employee
5 has needed skills to assist in responding to the emergency or its
6 aftermath and volunteers his or her services to either a governmental
7 agency or to a nonprofit organization engaged in humanitarian relief
8 in the devastated area, and the governmental agency or nonprofit
9 organization accepts the employee's offer of volunteer services;
10 ~~((or))~~

11 (iv) The employee is a victim of domestic violence, sexual
12 assault, or stalking;

13 (v) The employee needs the time for parental leave; or
14 (vi) The employee is sick or temporarily disabled because of
15 pregnancy disability;

16 (b) The illness, injury, impairment, condition, call to service,
17 emergency volunteer service, or consequence of domestic violence,
18 sexual assault, temporary layoff under section 3(5), chapter 32, Laws
19 of 2010 1st sp. sess., or stalking has caused, or is likely to cause,
20 the employee to:

21 (i) Go on leave without pay status; or
22 (ii) Terminate state employment;

23 (c) The employee's absence and the use of shared leave are
24 justified;

25 (d) The employee has depleted or will shortly deplete his or her:
26 (i) Annual leave and sick leave reserves if he or she qualifies
27 under (a)(i) of this subsection;
28 (ii) Annual leave and paid military leave allowed under RCW
29 38.40.060 if he or she qualifies under (a)(ii) of this subsection;
30 ~~((or))~~

31 (iii) Annual leave if he or she qualifies under (a)(iii) or (iv)
32 of this subsection; or
33 (iv) Annual leave and sick leave reserves if the employee
34 qualifies under (a)(v) or (vi) of this subsection. However, the
35 employee is not required to deplete all of his or her annual leave
36 and sick leave and can maintain up to forty hours of annual leave and
37 forty hours of sick leave in reserve;

38 (e) The employee has abided by agency rules regarding:
39 (i) Sick leave use if he or she qualifies under (a)(i) ~~((or))~~,
40 (iv), (v), or (vi) of this subsection; or

1 (ii) Military leave if he or she qualifies under (a)(ii) of this
2 subsection; and

3 (f) The employee has diligently pursued and been found to be
4 ineligible for benefits under chapter 51.32 RCW if he or she
5 qualifies under (a)(i) of this subsection.

6 (2) The agency head shall determine the amount of leave, if any,
7 which an employee may receive under this section. However, an
8 employee shall not receive a total of more than five hundred twenty-
9 two days of leave, except that, a supervisor may authorize leave in
10 excess of five hundred twenty-two days in extraordinary circumstances
11 for an employee qualifying for the shared leave program because he or
12 she is suffering from an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or
13 mental condition which is of an extraordinary or severe nature.
14 Shared leave received under the uniformed service shared leave pool
15 in RCW 41.04.685 is not included in this total.

16 (3) An employee may transfer annual leave, sick leave, and his or
17 her personal holiday, as follows:

18 (a) An employee who has an accrued annual leave balance of more
19 than ten days may request that the head of the agency for which the
20 employee works transfer a specified amount of annual leave to another
21 employee authorized to receive leave under subsection (1) of this
22 section. In no event may the employee request a transfer of an amount
23 of leave that would result in his or her annual leave account going
24 below ten days. For purposes of this subsection (3)(a), annual leave
25 does not accrue if the employee receives compensation in lieu of
26 accumulating a balance of annual leave.

27 (b) An employee may transfer a specified amount of sick leave to
28 an employee requesting shared leave only when the donating employee
29 retains a minimum of one hundred seventy-six hours of sick leave
30 after the transfer.

31 (c) An employee may transfer, under the provisions of this
32 section relating to the transfer of leave, all or part of his or her
33 personal holiday, as that term is defined under RCW 1.16.050, or as
34 such holidays are provided to employees by agreement with a school
35 district's board of directors if the leave transferred under this
36 subsection does not exceed the amount of time provided for personal
37 holidays under RCW 1.16.050.

38 (4) An employee of an institution of higher education under RCW
39 28B.10.016, school district, or educational service district who does
40 not accrue annual leave but does accrue sick leave and who has an

1 accrued sick leave balance of more than twenty-two days may request
2 that the head of the agency for which the employee works transfer a
3 specified amount of sick leave to another employee authorized to
4 receive leave under subsection (1) of this section. In no event may
5 such an employee request a transfer that would result in his or her
6 sick leave account going below twenty-two days. Transfers of sick
7 leave under this subsection are limited to transfers from employees
8 who do not accrue annual leave. Under this subsection, "sick leave"
9 also includes leave accrued pursuant to RCW 28A.400.300(1)(b) or
10 28A.310.240(1) with compensation for illness, injury, and
11 emergencies.

12 (5) Transfers of leave made by an agency head under subsections
13 (3) and (4) of this section shall not exceed the requested amount.

14 (6) Leave transferred under this section may be transferred from
15 employees of one agency to an employee of the same agency or, with
16 the approval of the heads of both agencies, to an employee of another
17 state agency.

18 (7) While an employee is on leave transferred under this section,
19 he or she shall continue to be classified as a state employee and
20 shall receive the same treatment in respect to salary, wages, and
21 employee benefits as the employee would normally receive if using
22 accrued annual leave or sick leave.

23 (a) All salary and wage payments made to employees while on leave
24 transferred under this section shall be made by the agency employing
25 the person receiving the leave. The value of leave transferred shall
26 be based upon the leave value of the person receiving the leave.

27 (b) In the case of leave transferred by an employee of one agency
28 to an employee of another agency, the agencies involved shall arrange
29 for the transfer of funds and credit for the appropriate value of
30 leave.

31 (i) Pursuant to rules adopted by the office of financial
32 management, funds shall not be transferred under this section if the
33 transfer would violate any constitutional or statutory restrictions
34 on the funds being transferred.

35 (ii) The office of financial management may adjust the
36 appropriation authority of an agency receiving funds under this
37 section only if and to the extent that the agency's existing
38 appropriation authority would prevent it from expending the funds
39 received.

1 (iii) Where any questions arise in the transfer of funds or the
2 adjustment of appropriation authority, the director of financial
3 management shall determine the appropriate transfer or adjustment.

4 (8) Leave transferred under this section shall not be used in any
5 calculation to determine an agency's allocation of full time
6 equivalent staff positions.

7 (9)(a) The value of any leave transferred under this section
8 which remains unused shall be returned at its original value to the
9 employee or employees who transferred the leave when the agency head
10 finds that the leave is no longer needed or will not be needed at a
11 future time in connection with the illness or injury for which the
12 leave was transferred or for any other qualifying condition. Unused
13 shared leave may not be returned until one of the following occurs:

14 (i) The agency head receives from the affected employee a
15 statement from the employee's doctor verifying that the illness or
16 injury is resolved; or

17 (ii) The employee is released to full-time employment; has not
18 received additional medical treatment for his or her current
19 condition or any other qualifying condition for at least six months;
20 and the employee's doctor has declined, in writing, the employee's
21 request for a statement indicating the employee's condition has been
22 resolved.

23 (b) If a shared leave account is closed and an employee later has
24 a need to use shared leave due to the same condition listed in the
25 closed account, the agency head must approve a new shared leave
26 request for the employee.

27 (c) To the extent administratively feasible, the value of unused
28 leave which was transferred by more than one employee shall be
29 returned on a pro rata basis.

30 (10) An employee who uses leave that is transferred to him or her
31 under this section may not be required to repay the value of the
32 leave that he or she used.

33 (11) The director of financial management may adopt rules as
34 necessary to implement subsection (2) of this section.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
36 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of

1 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
2 effect July 1, 2017.

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