

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5993

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations, March 1, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to leaves of absence for disaster relief services.

**Brief Description:** Providing for paid leaves of absence for state employees to provide disaster relief services.

**Sponsors:** Senators Winsley, Finkbeiner, Swecker and Wood.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations: 2/28/95, 3/1/95 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5993 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Sheldon, Vice Chair; Drew, Hale, Heavey, McCaslin and Winsley.

**Staff:** Diane Smith (786-7410)

**Background:** A state employee must request and be granted an official leave status in order to participate in specialized disaster relief services. This status would be leave without pay or vacation time.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** A category of leave of absence with full pay and benefits is established for state employees to participate in specialized disaster relief services after a proclamation of a state emergency. The maximum period is 160 working hours in any 12-month period. The employee must be a certified disaster services volunteer of the American Red Cross and receive a request to serve. The leave must be approved by the employee's supervisor.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The substitute bill converts 20 working days into 160 working hours to clarify the position of employees working flex time hours.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 28, 1995.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** No large fiscal impact is expected because the bill only applies to declared states of emergency.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Sharon Whitehead, Dept. of Personnel.