

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6204

As of February 2, 2000

Title: An act relating to victims of violence.

Brief Description: Allowing leave for victims of violence.

Sponsors: Senators Fairley, Costa, Kline and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor & Workforce Development: 1/17/2000.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Jill Reinmuth (786-7452)

Background: Neither federal law nor state law require an employer to allow a victim of a violent crime to take leave from work to obtain medical, legal, or other services.

Summary of Bill: A victim of domestic violence, harassment, a sex offense, or a violent offense is entitled to take unpaid family leave or use accrued personal, sick, or vacation leave:

- to receive medical treatment;
- to prepare for and attend court proceedings; or
- to obtain services to remedy a resulting crisis.

An employee must request such leave within a reasonable time under the circumstances. An employee may take such leave on a reduced leave subject to the approval of the employer.

While taking such leave, an employee is entitled to continue medical or dental insurance coverage at his or her own expense. Upon returning from such leave, an employee is entitled to be restored to the same position or a position with equivalent benefits and pay within 20 miles of the employee's workplace.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 1, 2000.

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