

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2281

As Amended by the Senate

Title: An act relating to shared leave.

Brief Description: Revising provisions for shared leave.

Sponsors: By Representatives Appleton and Hunt.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Affairs: 2/20/07, 2/23/07 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/6/07, 96-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 4/12/07, 44-0.

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| <h3>Brief Summary of Bill</h3> |
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- Changes provisions for return of shared leave.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Appleton, Vice Chair; Chandler, Ranking Minority Member; Armstrong, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Green, Kretz, McDermott, Miloscia and Ormsby.

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

In 1989, the Legislature enacted the Washington State Leave Sharing Program (Program) for state employees. The stated purpose of the Program is to permit state employees to donate annual leave, sick leave, or personal holidays to fellow state employees who are suffering from, or have relatives or household members who are suffering from, an extraordinary or severe illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition and has caused or is likely to cause the employee to take leave without pay or terminate his or her employment. As long

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as a certain balance is maintained, an employee may transfer annual and sick leave, and may transfer all of his or her personal holiday to an employee in the Program.

If an employee qualifies to participate in the Program, the agency head determines the amount of leave, not to exceed 261 days, that the employee may receive. The agency head also determines when the leave is no longer needed or will not be needed at a future time in connection with the illness or injury for which it was granted.

Summary of Bill:

Before an agency head makes a determination to return unused leave under the Program, he or she must receive a statement from the affected employee's doctor verifying that the illness or injury is resolved. Granted leave under the Program may be used for any other qualifying condition, in addition to the illness or injury for which the leave was originally granted.

EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S):

Adds provisions authorizing shared leave for state employees who have been called to respond to state or federally declared emergencies.

The Senate amendment adds provisions authorizing agency heads to authorize an employee to receive shared leave for state or federally declared emergencies anywhere in the United States when the emergency volunteer service would cause the employee to take leave without pay or to terminate state employment, and the employee has depleted, or will shortly deplete, his or her annual and sick leave reserves.

Qualifying employees must have skills necessary for the humanitarian relief organized, and have been accepted as a volunteer by either a governmental or nonprofit organization engaged in that effort.

Employees who have been permitted to use shared leave for a declared emergency are subjected to the same requirements and benefits as those receiving shared leave due to personal or household illness, or who have been called to military service.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) None.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Appleton, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.