

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6500

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Labor, Commerce, Research & Development, January 28, 2008

Title: An act relating to leave sharing for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Brief Description: Authorizing leave sharing for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Sponsors: Senators Eide, Kohl-Welles, Stevens, Shin, Rasmussen, Kline, Spanel, Holmquist and Haugen; by request of Attorney General.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce, Research & Development: 1/24/08, 1/28/08 [DPS].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6500 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Kohl-Welles, Chair; Keiser, Vice Chair; Holmquist, Ranking Minority Member; Franklin, Hewitt, King, Murray and Prentice.

Staff: Ingrid Mungia (786-7423)

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 that has caused or is likely to cause the employee to take leave without pay or terminate his or her employment. An employee may also receive shared leave if the employee has been called to service in the uniformed services, or a state emergency has been declared anywhere within the United States by the federal or any state government that has caused or is likely to cause the employee to take leave without pay or terminate his or her employment. As long as a certain balance is maintained, an employee may transfer annual leave, sick leave, or 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.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute): An agency head may permit an employee to receive leave under the Program if the employee is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Takes effect on October 1, 2008.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute): Effective date changed to October 1, 2008.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on October 1, 2008.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: PRO: A state employee that has exhausted their accumulated personal leave, should not have to choose between personal safety and financial stability. This bill will provide an economic cushion for victims who need time off but would not otherwise qualify for shared leave. This is an expansion of tools a victim of domestic violence can use.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Chris Johnson, WA Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs; Christy Peters, Thurston County Persecuting Attorney; Mickey Newberry, Attorney General Office; Andy Colvin, Department of Personnel; Keith Galbraith, Family Renewal Shelter.