

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6158

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As of April 13, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to delaying the implementation of the family leave insurance program.

**Brief Description:** Delaying the implementation of the family leave insurance program.

**Sponsors:** Senators Keiser, Brown, Prentice and Tom.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Ways & Means:

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Staff:** Michael Bezanson (786-7449)

**Background:** The Family Leave Insurance Program was enacted in 2007 to provide a partial wage replacement program for individuals who are unable to perform their regular or customary work because they are on family leave. The program is to begin paying \$250 per week for up to five weeks starting October 1, 2009, to eligible individuals. To be eligible the individual must work at least 680 hours in employment covered by unemployment compensation.

The program also establishes the Family Leave Insurance Account and provides the Director of Labor and Industries (L&I) authority to lend funds from the Supplemental Pension Fund to the Family Leave Insurance Account. The 2007-09 budget provides L&I \$18 million in appropriation authority from the Family Leave Insurance Account for initial administrative expenses.

**Summary of Bill:** The Family Leave Insurance program implementation is delayed and initial payments of family leave insurance benefits is deferred from October 1, 2009, to October 1, 2012. Authority for the Director of L&I to lend funds from the Supplemental Pension Fund to the Family Leave Insurance Account is extended from July 1, 2009, to July 1, 2012, and the initial report due to the Legislature will be due on September 1, 2013, rather than September 1, 2010.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested.

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*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.*

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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