

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1098

As Reported by House Committee On:
State Government & Tribal Affairs
Ways & Means

Title: An act relating to computing the rate of vacation leave accrual for employees formerly employed by a school district.

Brief Description: Regarding computing the rate of vacation leave accrual for state employees formerly employed by a school district.

Sponsors: Representative Hunt.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Affairs: 1/16/09, 1/29/09 [DPS];
Ways & Means: 2/19/09, 2/27/09 [DPS(SGTA)].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Allows former certified and classified school district employees to be credited for years of service for purposes of computing annual leave accrual rates when moving to state employment.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Appleton, Vice Chair; Armstrong, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Flannigan, Hurst and Miloscia.

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135)

Background:

State employees who have completed six months of continuous employment are entitled to a minimum of one working day of vacation leave for each month of employment or a fractional amount based on the percent of full-time employment, as applicable. Employees

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are credited with one additional vacation day for satisfactorily completing the first two, three and five continuous years of employment.

Certificated and classified employees of school districts accrue 12 days of annual leave each year.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Former certified or classified employees of a school district who move to state employment shall be credited with years of service for purposes of determining vacation leave accrual rates. Each contract year or equivalent of full-time employment shall be credited as one year of qualifying service. Qualifying employment with a school district shall be applied to leave accrual rates effective July 1, 2009.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

Clarifies that the new accrual rate of vacation leave will be applied beginning July 1, 2009.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction urges support of the bill. School district experience is highly desirable in terms of recruiting for state employment. Allowing school district employees to be credited with service in terms of leave accrual rates will provide a benefit to the state in recruitment. A school district employee earning 22 days of leave per year that moves to state employment receives 12 days per year. If the state recognized service with the school district, the employee would earn 17 days per year. Higher education employees are recognized as state employees, yet school district employees are not.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Hunt, prime sponsor; and Gary Myers.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: The substitute bill by Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 22 members: Representatives Linville, Chair; Ericks, Vice Chair; Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Dammeier, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Pettigrew, Priest, Ross, Schmick, Seaquist and Sullivan.

Staff: David Pringle (786-7310)

Summary of Recommendation of Committee On Ways & Means Compared to Recommendation of Committee On State Government & Tribal Affairs:

No new changes were recommended.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) After earning about 11 years of service as an engineer for school district employers, I became employed by the Department of General Administration. When I came to the state I was surprised to learn that I received no credit for my prior service for purposes of leave accrual. This bill remedies the step down in leave accrual that I experienced. No back fill is required in my position, so I don't think that there is any cost. This is a good move for recruiting. The Department of General Administration has had trouble recruiting from K-12 because of the vacation leave disparity.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Gary Myers.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.