



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 415

February Session, 2008

Substitute Senate Bill No. 65

Senate, April 3, 2008

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ALLOWING BLIND OR PHYSICALLY DISABLED STATE OR QUASI-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO USE ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE FOR GUIDE DOG TRAINING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) Each appointing
2 authority shall grant to each full-time employee in a permanent
3 position in the state service or full-time employee of a quasi-public
4 agency who (1) is blind or physically disabled, and (2) has been
5 employed for at least twelve consecutive months, the use of
6 accumulated paid sick leave, not to exceed fifteen days, to participate
7 in training conducted by a guide dog organization or assistance dog
8 organization, provided such organization is a member of a
9 professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools, to
10 prepare the employee to handle a guide dog or assistance dog for the
11 employee's own use. The appointing authority may require up to
12 seven-days' advance notice of an employee's intention to use such
13 leave and may require the employee to provide reasonable

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill gives full-time state employees and quasi-public agency employees who are blind or physically disabled the option of using accumulated paid sick leave¹ to participate in guide dog training.

As the bill is very limited in scope and any employee impacted would be utilizing their own accumulated paid sick leave, this bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ Not to exceed 15 days.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 65*****AN ACT ALLOWING BLIND OR PHYSICALLY DISABLED STATE OR QUASI-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO USE ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE FOR GUIDE DOG TRAINING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill gives permanent full-time state employees and full-time quasi-public agency employees who are blind or physically disabled the option of using accumulated paid sick leave, not to exceed 15 days, to take guide dog or assistance dog training.

The employee must:

1. have been employed for at least 12 consecutive months,
2. participate in training that prepares the employee to handle a guide or assistance dog for the employee's own use, and
3. participate in training conducted by a guide dog or assistance dog organization that is a member of the professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools.

The agency can require up to seven-days advance notice of an employee's intention to use the leave and may require the employee to provide reasonable documentation that the leave falls under the purpose permitted by the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 11 Nay 0 (03/04/2008)

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/17/2008)