

# SENATE BILL No. 212

March 2, 2017, Introduced by Senators ANANICH, HOPGOOD, BIEDA, WARREN, JOHNSON, YOUNG, CONYERS and HERTEL and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

A bill to require employers to provide paid sick leave to certain employees; to specify the conditions for accruing and using paid sick leave; to prohibit retaliation against an employee for requesting, exercising, or enforcing rights granted in this act; to prescribe powers and duties of certain state departments, agencies, and officers; to provide for promulgation of rules; and to provide remedies and sanctions.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "paid  
2 sick leave act".

3           Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4           (a) "Committed relationship" means one in which the employee  
5 and another individual share responsibility for a significant  
6 measure of each other's common welfare, such as any relationship

1 between individuals of the same or different sex that is granted  
2 legal recognition by a state, political subdivision, or the  
3 District of Columbia as a marriage or analogous relationship,  
4 including, but not limited to, a civil union.

5 (b) "Department" means the department of licensing and  
6 regulatory affairs.

7 (c) "Director" means the director of the department of  
8 licensing and regulatory affairs or his or her designee.

9 (d) "Domestic partner" means an adult in a committed  
10 relationship with another adult, including both same-sex and  
11 different-sex relationships.

12 (e) "Domestic violence" has the same meaning as provided in  
13 section 1 of 1978 PA 389, MCL 400.1501.

14 (f) "Employee", subject to section 12, means an individual  
15 engaged in service to an employer in the business of the employer,  
16 except that employee does not include an individual employed by the  
17 United States government.

18 (g) "Employer" means any person, firm, business, educational  
19 institution, nonprofit agency, corporation, limited liability  
20 company, government entity, or other entity that employs 1 or more  
21 individuals, except that employer does not include the United  
22 States government.

23 (h) "Family member" includes all of the following:

24 (i) A biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild or legal  
25 ward, a child of a domestic partner, or a child to whom the  
26 employee stands in loco parentis.

27 (ii) A biological parent, foster parent, stepparent, or

1 adoptive parent or a legal guardian of an employee or an employee's  
2 spouse or domestic partner or a person who stood in loco parentis  
3 when the employee was a minor child.

4 (iii) A person to whom the employee is legally married under  
5 the laws of any state or a domestic partner.

6 (iv) A grandparent or spouse or domestic partner of a  
7 grandparent.

8 (v) A grandchild.

9 (vi) A biological, foster, or adopted sibling or spouse or  
10 domestic partner of a biological, foster, or adopted sibling.

11 (vii) Any other individual related by blood or affinity whose  
12 close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family  
13 relationship.

14 (i) "Health care professional" means any of the following:

15 (i) Any person licensed under federal law or the law of this  
16 state to provide health care services, including, but not limited  
17 to, nurses, doctors, and emergency room personnel.

18 (ii) A certified midwife.

19 (j) "Retaliatory personnel action" means any of the following:

20 (i) Denial of any right guaranteed under this act.

21 (ii) A threat, discharge, suspension, demotion, reduction of  
22 hours, or other adverse action against an employee or former  
23 employee for exercise of a right guaranteed under this act.

24 (iii) Sanctions against an employee who is a recipient of  
25 public benefits for exercise of a right guaranteed under this act.

26 (iv) Interference with, or punishment for, an individual's  
27 participation in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or

1 hearing under this act.

2 (k) "Sexual assault" means any act that constitutes a  
3 violation of section 520b, 520c, 520d, 520e, 520f, or 520g of the  
4 Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.520b, 750.520c, 750.520d,  
5 750.520e, 750.520f, and 750.520g.

6 (l) "Small business" means an employer for which fewer than 10  
7 individuals work for compensation during a given week. In  
8 determining the number of individuals performing work for  
9 compensation during a given week, all individuals performing work  
10 for compensation on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis must  
11 be counted, including individuals made available to work through  
12 the services of a temporary services or staffing agency or similar  
13 entity. An employer is not a small business if it maintained 10 or  
14 more employees on its payroll during any 20 or more calendar  
15 workweeks in either the current or the preceding calendar year.

16 Sec. 3. (1) Each employer shall provide paid sick leave  
17 annually to each of the employer's employees in this state. Paid  
18 sick leave accrues beginning January 1, 2018, at a rate of 1 hour  
19 of paid sick leave for each 30 hours worked. Paid sick leave  
20 accrues in 1-hour increments up to 40 hours per calendar year for  
21 employees of a small business and 72 hours for all other employees.  
22 Paid sick leave carries over from year to year, but a small  
23 business is not required to permit an employee to use more than 40  
24 hours, and other employers are not required to permit an employee  
25 to use more than 72 hours, of accrued paid sick leave in a single  
26 year.

27 (2) An employee may use accrued paid sick leave as accrued,

1 except that an employer may require an employee hired after January  
2 1, 2018, to wait until the ninetieth calendar day after beginning  
3 employment before using accrued paid sick leave.

4 (3) For purposes of paid sick leave accrual under this act, an  
5 employee who is exempt from overtime requirements under section  
6 13(a)(1) of the fair labor standards act of 1938, 29 USC 213(a)(1),  
7 is assumed to work 40 hours in each workweek unless the employee's  
8 normal work week is less than 40 hours, in which case paid sick  
9 leave accrues based upon that normal workweek.

10 (4) An employer is in compliance with this section if the  
11 employer provides any paid leave, or combination of paid leave,  
12 that may be used for the same purposes and under the same  
13 conditions provided in this act and that is accrued in total at a  
14 rate equal to or greater than the rate described in subsection (1).  
15 For the purposes of this subsection, "paid leave" includes, but is  
16 not limited to, paid vacation, personal days, and paid time off.

17 (5) An employer shall pay each employee using paid sick leave  
18 at a pay rate equal to the greater of either the normal hourly wage  
19 for that employee or the minimum wage established under the  
20 workforce opportunity wage act, 2014 PA 138, MCL 408.411 to  
21 408.424, but not less than the minimum wage rate established in  
22 section 4 of the workforce opportunity wage act, 2014 PA 138, MCL  
23 408.414. For any employee whose hourly wage varies depending on the  
24 work performed, the "normal hourly wage" means the average hourly  
25 wage of the employee in the pay period immediately prior to the pay  
26 period in which the employee used paid sick leave.

27 (6) An employer shall not require an employee to search for or

1 secure a replacement worker as a condition for using paid sick  
2 leave.

3 Sec. 4. (1) An employer shall permit an employee to use the  
4 paid sick leave accrued under section 3 for any of the following:

5 (a) The employee's mental or physical illness, injury, or  
6 health condition; medical diagnosis, care, or treatment of the  
7 employee's mental or physical illness, injury, or health condition;  
8 or preventative medical care for the employee.

9 (b) For the employee's family member's mental or physical  
10 illness, injury, or health condition; medical diagnosis, care, or  
11 treatment of the employee's family member's mental or physical  
12 illness, injury, or health condition; or preventative medical care  
13 for a family member of the employee.

14 (c) If the employee or the employee's family member is a  
15 victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, for medical care or  
16 psychological or other counseling for physical or psychological  
17 injury or disability; to obtain services from a victim services  
18 organization; to relocate due to domestic violence or sexual  
19 assault; to obtain legal services; or to participate in any civil  
20 or criminal proceedings related to or resulting from the domestic  
21 violence or sexual assault.

22 (d) For closure of the employee's place of business by order  
23 of a public official due to a public health emergency; for an  
24 employee's need to care for a child whose school or place of care  
25 has been closed by order of a public official due to a public  
26 health emergency; or when it has been determined by the health  
27 authorities having jurisdiction or by a health care provider that

1 the employee's or employee's family member's presence in the  
2 community would jeopardize the health of others because of the  
3 employee's or family member's exposure to a communicable disease,  
4 whether or not the employee or family member has actually  
5 contracted the communicable disease.

6 (2) If the employee's need to use paid sick leave is  
7 foreseeable, an employer may require advance notice, not to exceed  
8 7 days prior to the date the leave is to begin, of the intention to  
9 use the leave. If the employee's need for the leave is not  
10 foreseeable, an employer may require the employee to give notice of  
11 the intention as soon as practicable.

12 (3) For paid sick leave of more than 3 consecutive days, an  
13 employer may require reasonable documentation that the sick leave  
14 has been used for a purpose described in subsection (1). Upon the  
15 employer's request, the employee must provide the documentation to  
16 the employer in a timely manner. The employer shall not delay the  
17 commencement of paid sick leave on the basis that the employer has  
18 not yet received documentation. Documentation signed by a health  
19 care professional indicating that sick leave is necessary is  
20 reasonable documentation. A police report indicating that the  
21 employee or the employee's family member was a victim of domestic  
22 violence or sexual assault, a signed statement from a victim and  
23 witness advocate affirming that the employee or employee's family  
24 member is receiving services from a victim services organization,  
25 or a court document indicating that the employee or employee's  
26 family member is involved in legal action related to domestic  
27 violence or sexual assault is reasonable documentation. An employer

1 shall not require that the documentation explain the nature of the  
2 illness or the details of the violence. If an employer chooses to  
3 require documentation for sick leave, the employer is responsible  
4 for paying all out-of-pocket expenses the employee incurs in  
5 obtaining the documentation.

6 (4) An employer shall not require disclosure of details  
7 relating to domestic violence or sexual assault or the details of  
8 an employee's or an employee's family member's medical condition as  
9 a condition of providing paid sick leave under this act. If an  
10 employer possesses health information or information pertaining to  
11 domestic violence or sexual assault about an employee or employee's  
12 family member, the employer shall treat that information as  
13 confidential and shall not disclose that information except to the  
14 affected employee or with the permission of the affected employee.

15 (5) This act does not require an employer to provide paid sick  
16 leave for any purposes other than as described in this section.

17 Sec. 5. (1) If an employee is transferred to a separate  
18 division, entity, or location, but remains employed by the same  
19 employer, the employee retains all paid sick leave that was accrued  
20 at the prior division, entity, or location and may use all accrued  
21 paid sick leave as provided in section 4. If an employee separates  
22 from employment and is rehired by the same employer within 6 months  
23 of the separation, the employer shall reinstate previously accrued,  
24 unused paid sick leave and shall permit the reinstated employee to  
25 use that sick leave and accrue additional paid sick leave upon  
26 reinstatement.

27 (2) If a different employer succeeds or takes the place of an



1 existing employer, the successor employer assumes the  
2 responsibility for the sick leave rights that employees who remain  
3 employed by the successor employer accrued under the original  
4 employer. Those employees are entitled to use paid sick leave  
5 previously accrued on the terms provided in this act.

6 (3) This act does not require an employer to provide financial  
7 or other reimbursement to an employee for accrued paid sick leave  
8 that was not used upon the employee's termination, resignation,  
9 retirement, or other separation from employment.

10 Sec. 6. (1) An employer or any other person shall not  
11 interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of, or the attempt  
12 to exercise, any right protected under this act.

13 (2) An employer shall not take retaliatory personnel action or  
14 discriminate against an employee because the employee has exercised  
15 a right protected under this act. Rights protected by this act  
16 include, but are not limited to, the right to use paid sick leave  
17 pursuant to this act, the right to file a complaint or inform any  
18 person about any employer's alleged violation of this act, the  
19 right to cooperate with the department in its investigations of  
20 alleged violations of this act, and the right to inform any person  
21 of his or her rights under this act.

22 (3) An employer's absence control policy must not treat paid  
23 sick leave taken under this act as an absence that may lead to or  
24 result in retaliatory personnel action.

25 (4) The protections in this section apply to any person who  
26 mistakenly but in good faith alleges a violation of this section.

27 (5) There is a rebuttable presumption of a violation of this

1 section if an employer takes adverse personnel action against a  
2 person within 90 days after that person does any of the following:

3 (a) Files a complaint with the department or a court alleging  
4 a violation of this act.

5 (b) Informs any person about an employer's alleged violation  
6 of this act.

7 (c) Cooperates with the department or another person in the  
8 investigation or prosecution of any alleged violation of this act.

9 (d) Opposes any policy, practice, or act that is prohibited  
10 under this act.

11 (e) Informs any person of his or her rights under this act.

12 Sec. 7. (1) If an employer violates this act, the employee  
13 affected by the violation, at any time within 3 years after the  
14 violation or the date when the employee first knew of the  
15 violation, whichever is later, may do any of the following:

16 (a) Bring a civil action for appropriate relief, including,  
17 but not limited to, payment for used sick leave; rehiring or  
18 reinstatement to the employee's previous job; payment of back  
19 wages; reestablishment of employee benefits to which the employee  
20 otherwise would have been eligible if the employee had not been  
21 subjected to retaliatory personnel action or discrimination; and an  
22 equal additional amount as liquidated damages together with costs  
23 and reasonable attorney fees as the court allows.

24 (b) File a claim with the department, which shall investigate  
25 the claim. Filing a claim with the department is not a prerequisite  
26 or a bar to bringing a civil action.

27 (2) If the director determines that there is reasonable cause

1 to believe that an employer violated this act and the department is  
2 subsequently unable to obtain voluntary compliance by the employer  
3 within a reasonable time, the department shall bring a civil action  
4 as provided in subsection (1)(a) on behalf of the employee. The  
5 department may investigate and file a civil action under subsection  
6 (1)(a) on behalf of all employees of that employer who are  
7 similarly situated at the same work site and who have not brought a  
8 civil action under subsection (1)(a). A contract or agreement  
9 between the employer and the employee or any acceptance by the  
10 employee of a paid leave policy that provides fewer rights or  
11 benefits than provided by this act is void and unenforceable.

12 (3) In addition to liability for civil remedies described in  
13 this section, an employer who fails to provide paid sick leave in  
14 violation of this act is subject to a civil fine of not more than  
15 \$1,000.00.

16 (4) An employer that willfully violates a notice or posting  
17 requirement of section 8 is subject to a civil fine of not more  
18 than \$100.00 for each separate violation.

19 Sec. 8. (1) An employer subject to this act shall provide  
20 written notice to each employee at the time of hiring or by January  
21 1, 2018, whichever is later, of all of the following:

22 (a) The amount of sick leave required to be provided to an  
23 employee under this act.

24 (b) The terms under which sick leave may be used.

25 (c) That retaliatory personnel action by the employer against  
26 an employee for requesting or using sick leave for which the  
27 employee is eligible is prohibited.

1 (d) The employee's right to bring a civil action or file a  
2 complaint with the department for any violation of this act.

3 (2) An employer shall display a poster at the employer's place  
4 of business, in a conspicuous place that is accessible to  
5 employees, that contains the information in subsection (1) in both  
6 English and Spanish.

7 (3) The department shall create and make available to  
8 employers posters that contain the information required under  
9 subsection (1) for employers' use in complying with this section.  
10 The department shall provide posters in both English and Spanish.

11 Sec. 9. The department shall develop and implement a  
12 multilingual outreach program to inform employees, parents, and  
13 persons who are under the care of a health care provider about the  
14 availability of paid sick leave under this act. This program must  
15 include distribution of notices and other written materials in  
16 English and in other languages to child care and elder care  
17 providers, domestic violence shelters, schools, hospitals,  
18 community health centers, and other health care providers.

19 Sec. 10. An employer shall retain for 5 years records  
20 documenting the hours worked and paid sick leave taken by  
21 employees. To monitor compliance with the requirements of this act,  
22 an employer shall allow the department access to those records,  
23 with appropriate notice and at a mutually agreeable time. If a  
24 question arises as to whether an employer has violated an  
25 employee's right to paid sick leave under this act and the employer  
26 does not maintain or retain adequate records documenting the hours  
27 worked and paid sick leave taken by the employee or does not allow

1 the department reasonable access to those records, there is a  
2 presumption that the employer has violated the act, which can be  
3 rebutted only by clear and convincing evidence.

4 Sec. 11. (1) This act provides minimum requirements pertaining  
5 to paid sick leave does not preempt, limit, or otherwise affect the  
6 applicability of any other law, regulation, requirement, policy, or  
7 standard, including a collective bargaining agreement, that  
8 provides for greater accrual or use of time off, whether paid or  
9 unpaid, or that extends other protections to employees.

10 (2) This act does not do any of the following:

11 (a) Prohibit an employer from providing more paid sick leave  
12 than is required under this act.

13 (b) Diminish any rights provided to any employee under a  
14 collective bargaining agreement.

15 (c) Subject to section 12, preempt or override the terms of  
16 any collective bargaining agreement in effect prior to the  
17 effective date of this act.

18 (d) Prohibit an employer from establishing a policy that  
19 permits an employee to donate unused accrued paid sick leave to  
20 another employee.

21 Sec. 12. If an employer's employees are covered by a  
22 collective bargaining agreement in effect on January 1, 2018, this  
23 act applies beginning on the date that agreement expires,  
24 notwithstanding any statement in the agreement that it continues in  
25 force until a future date or event or the execution of a new  
26 collective bargaining agreement.

27 Sec. 13. The director may promulgate rules in accordance with

1 the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201  
2 to 24.328, as necessary to administer this act.

3 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect January 1, 2018.