

# HOUSE BILL No. 5625

May 15, 2012, Introduced by Reps. Ananich, Cavanagh, Tlaib, Irwin, Barnett, Brown,  
Hovey-Wright and Stanley 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) "Department" means the department of licensing and  
5 regulatory affairs.

6           (b) "Director" means the director of the department of

1 licensing and regulatory affairs or his or her designee.

2 (c) "Domestic violence" has the same meaning as provided in  
3 section 1 of 1978 PA 389, MCL 400.1501.

4 (d) "Employee" means an individual engaged in service to an  
5 employer in the business of the employer.

6 (e) "Employer" means any person, firm, business, educational  
7 institution, nonprofit agency, corporation, limited liability  
8 company, or other entity that employs 1 or more individuals.

9 (f) "Family member" includes all of the following:

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

13 (ii) A biological parent, foster parent, stepparent, or  
14 adoptive parent or a legal guardian of an employee or an employee's  
15 spouse or domestic partner or a person who stood in loco parentis  
16 when the employee was a minor child.

17 (iii) A person to whom the employee is legally married under the  
18 laws of this state.

19 (iv) A grandparent or spouse or domestic partner of a  
20 grandparent.

21 (v) A grandchild.

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

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

27 (g) "Retaliatory personnel action" means any of the following:

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

2 (ii) A threat, discharge, suspension, demotion, or other  
3 adverse action against an employee for exercise of a right  
4 guaranteed under this act.

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

7 (iv) Interference with, or punishment for, an employee's  
8 participation in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or  
9 hearing under this act.

10 (h) "Sexual assault" means any act that constitutes a  
11 violation of section 520b, 520c, 520d, 520e, 520f, or 520g of the  
12 Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.520b, 750.520c, 750.520d,  
13 750.520e, 750.520f, and 750.520g.

14 (i) "Small business" means a private employer that is an  
15 individual, firm, partnership, institution, corporation, or  
16 association for which fewer than 10 individuals work for  
17 compensation during a given week. In determining the number of  
18 individuals performing work for compensation during a given week,  
19 all individuals performing work for compensation on a full-time,  
20 part-time, or temporary basis shall be counted, including  
21 individuals made available to work through the services of a  
22 temporary services or staffing agency or similar entity. An  
23 employer is not a small business if it maintained 10 or more  
24 employees on the payroll during any 20 or more calendar workweeks  
25 in either the current or the preceding calendar year.

26 Sec. 3. (1) Each employer shall provide paid sick leave  
27 annually to each of the employer's employees in this state. Paid

1 sick leave shall accrue beginning January 1, 2013, at a rate of 1  
2 hour of paid sick leave for each 30 hours worked. Paid sick leave  
3 shall accrue in 1-hour increments up to a minimum of 40 hours per  
4 calendar year for employees of a small business and 72 hours for  
5 all other employees. However, a small business employer is not  
6 required to permit an employee to use more than 40 hours, and other  
7 employers are not required to permit an employee to use more than  
8 72 hours, of accrued paid sick leave in a single year.

9 (2) An employee may use accrued paid sick leave as accrued,  
10 except that an employer may require an employee hired after January  
11 1, 2013 to complete 90 days of service before using accrued paid  
12 sick leave.

13 (3) For purposes of paid sick leave accrual under this act, an  
14 employee who is exempt from overtime requirements under section  
15 13(a)(1) of the fair labor standards act, 29 USC 213(a)(1), is  
16 assumed to work 40 hours in each workweek unless the employee's  
17 normal work week is less than 40 hours, in which case paid sick  
18 leave accrues based upon that normal workweek.

19 (4) An employer is in compliance with this section if the  
20 employer provides any paid leave, or combination of paid leave,  
21 that may be used for the same purposes and under the same  
22 conditions provided in sections 4 and 6 and that is accrued in  
23 total at a rate equal to or greater than the rate described in  
24 subsection (1). For the purposes of this subsection, "paid leave"  
25 includes, but is not limited to, paid vacation, personal days, and  
26 paid time off.

27 (5) An employer shall pay each employee using paid sick leave

1 at a pay rate equal to the greater of either the normal hourly wage  
2 for that employee or the minimum wage established under the minimum  
3 wage law of 1964, 1964 PA 154, MCL 408.381 to 408.398, but not less  
4 than the minimum wage rate established in section 4 of the minimum  
5 wage law of 1964, 1964 PA 154, MCL 408.384. For any employee whose  
6 hourly wage varies depending on the work performed, the "normal  
7 hourly wage" means the average hourly wage of the employee in the  
8 pay period immediately prior to the pay period in which the  
9 employee used paid sick leave.

10 (6) An employer shall not require an employee to search for or  
11 secure a replacement worker as a condition for using paid sick  
12 leave.

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

15 (a) The employee's illness, injury, or health condition;  
16 medical diagnosis, care, or treatment of the employee's mental  
17 illness or physical illness, injury, or health condition; or  
18 preventative medical care for the employee.

19 (b) For the employee's family member's illness, injury, or  
20 health condition; medical diagnosis, care, or treatment of the  
21 employee's family member's mental or physical illness, injury, or  
22 health condition; or preventative medical care for a family member  
23 of the employee.

24 (c) If the employee or the employee's family member is a  
25 victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, for medical care or  
26 psychological or other counseling for physical or psychological  
27 injury or disability; to obtain services from a victim services

1 organization; to relocate due to domestic violence or sexual  
2 assault; or to participate in any civil or criminal proceedings  
3 related to or resulting from the domestic violence or sexual  
4 assault.

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

11 (3) For paid sick leave of more than 3 consecutive days, an  
12 employer may require reasonable documentation that the sick leave  
13 has been used for a purpose described in subsection (1).  
14 Documentation signed by a health care professional indicating that  
15 sick leave is necessary shall be considered reasonable  
16 documentation. A police report indicating that the employee or the  
17 employee's family member was a victim of domestic violence or  
18 sexual assault; a court order; or a signed statement from a victim  
19 and witness advocate affirming that the employee is involved in  
20 legal action related to domestic violence or sexual assault shall  
21 be considered reasonable documentation. An employer shall not  
22 require that the documentation explain the nature of the illness or  
23 the details of the violence. If an employer chooses to require  
24 documentation for sick leave and the employee does not have health  
25 insurance, the employer is responsible for paying all out-of-pocket  
26 expenses the employee incurs in obtaining the documentation. If the  
27 employee does have health insurance, the employer is responsible

1 for paying any costs charged to the employee by the health care  
2 provider for providing the specific documentation required by the  
3 employer.

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

13 (5) Nothing in sections 3 to 6 requires an employer to provide  
14 paid sick leave for any purposes other than as described in this  
15 section.

16 Sec. 5. (1) If an employee is transferred to a separate  
17 division, entity, or location, but remains employed by the same  
18 employer, the employee shall retain all paid sick leave that was  
19 accrued at the prior division, entity, or location and may use all  
20 accrued paid sick leave as provided in section 4. If an employee  
21 separates from employment and is rehired by the same employer  
22 within 6 months of the separation, the employer shall reinstate  
23 previously accrued paid sick leave that has not been used and the  
24 reinstated employee shall be entitled to use accrued paid sick  
25 leave and accrue additional paid sick leave upon reinstatement.

26 (2) Nothing in this section or section 4 shall be construed to  
27 require an employer to provide financial or other reimbursement to

1 an employee for accrued paid sick leave that has not been used upon  
2 the employee's termination, resignation, retirement, or other  
3 separation from employment.

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

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

16       (3) An employer's absence control policy shall not treat paid  
17 sick leave taken under this act as an absence that may lead to or  
18 result in discipline, discharge, demotion, suspension, or any other  
19 adverse action.

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

22       (5) There is a rebuttable presumption of a violation of this  
23 section if an employer takes retaliatory personnel action against a  
24 person within 90 days after that person does any of the following:

25       (a) Files a complaint with the department or a court alleging  
26 a violation of this section.

27       (b) Informs any person about an employer's alleged violation

1 of this section.

2 (c) Cooperates with the department or another person in the  
3 investigation or prosecution of any alleged violation of this  
4 section.

5 (d) Opposes any policy, practice, or act that is prohibited  
6 under this section.

7 (e) Informs any person of his or her rights under this  
8 section.

9 Sec. 7. (1) If an employer violates this act, the employee  
10 affected by the violation, at any time within 3 years after the  
11 violation, may do any of the following:

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

20 (b) File a claim with the department, which shall investigate  
21 the claim.

22 (2) If the director determines that there is reasonable cause  
23 to believe that an employer violated this act and the department is  
24 subsequently unable to obtain voluntary compliance by the employer  
25 within a reasonable time, the department shall bring a civil action  
26 as provided in subsection (1)(a) on behalf of the employee. The  
27 department may investigate and file a civil action under subsection

1 (1) (a) on behalf of all employees of that employer who are  
2 similarly situated at the same work site and who have not brought a  
3 civil action under subsection (1) (a). A contract or agreement  
4 between the employer and the employee or any acceptance by the  
5 employee of a paid leave policy that provides fewer rights or  
6 benefits is not a bar to the action.

7 (3) In addition to liability for civil remedies described in  
8 this section, an employer who fails to offer paid sick leave in  
9 violation of this act is subject to a civil fine of not more than  
10 \$1,000.00.

11 Sec. 8. (1) An employer subject to the provisions of this act  
12 shall provide notice to each employee at the time of hiring of all  
13 of the following:

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

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

17 (c) That retaliation by the employer against an employee for  
18 requesting or using sick leave for which the employee is eligible  
19 is prohibited.

20 (d) The employee's right to file a complaint with the  
21 department for any violation of this section or of sections 3 to 6.

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

26 (3) The department shall create and make available to  
27 employers posters that contain the information required under

1 subsection (1) for employers' use in complying with this section.  
2 Posters shall be provided in both English and Spanish

3       Sec. 9. The department shall develop and implement a  
4 multilingual outreach program to inform employees, parents, and  
5 persons who are under the care of a health care provider about the  
6 availability of paid sick leave under this act. This program shall  
7 include distribution of notices and other written materials in  
8 English and in other languages to all child care and elder care  
9 providers, domestic violence shelters, schools, hospitals,  
10 community health centers, and other health care providers.

11       Sec. 10. An employer shall retain for 5 years records  
12 documenting the hours worked and paid sick leave taken by  
13 employees. To monitor compliance with the requirements of this act,  
14 an employer shall allow the department access to those records,  
15 with appropriate notice and at a mutually agreeable time. If a  
16 question arises as to whether an employer has violated an  
17 employee's right to paid sick leave under this act and the employer  
18 does not maintain or retain adequate records documenting the hours  
19 worked and paid sick leave taken by the employee or does not allow  
20 the department reasonable access to those records, there is a  
21 presumption that the employer has violated the act, which can be  
22 rebutted only by clear and convincing evidence.

23       Sec. 11. (1) This act provides minimum requirements pertaining  
24 to paid sick leave and shall not be construed to preempt, limit, or  
25 otherwise affect the applicability of any other law, regulation,  
26 requirement, policy, or standard that provides for greater accrual  
27 or use of time off, whether paid or unpaid, or that extends other

1 protections to employees.

2 (2) Nothing in sections 3 to 6 shall be construed to prevent  
3 an employer from providing more paid sick leave than is required  
4 under this act, to diminish any rights provided to any employee  
5 under a collective bargaining agreement, or to preempt or override  
6 the terms of any collective bargaining agreement in effect prior to  
7 January 1, 2013.

8 (3) Nothing in sections 3 to 6 shall be construed to prohibit  
9 an employer from establishing a policy that permits an employee to  
10 donate unused accrued paid sick leave to another employee.

11 Sec. 12. The director may promulgate rules in accordance with  
12 the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201  
13 to 24.328, as necessary to administer this act.

14 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect January 1, 2013.