



Bridgett Heinrich <bheinrich@panaschools.com>

Fwd: Capitol Watch: Update on COVID Leave Days Legislation

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>

Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 3:52 PM

To: Bridgett Heinrich <bheinrich@panaschools.com>

April Board Meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **IASA** <iasa@iasaedu.org>

Date: Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 3:30 PM

Subject: Capitol Watch: Update on COVID Leave Days Legislation

To: <jbauer@panaschools.com>**COVID Leave Days Bill Heads to the Governor's Desk; 7 Days Remaining in Session**

The General Assembly is officially in its final leg of this legislative session. With over 50 pieces of education legislation having passed this week, we still anticipate a few more bills being heard this evening or in the next seven days before session adjourns. One bill that passed this week that we know districts have been awaiting news on is [HB 1167](#) (formerly HB 2778), which was carried by Rep. Yang Rohr (D-Naperville) and Sen. Harmon (D-Oak Park).

The saga of HB 2778, the bill that would require school districts to provide administrative leave days for all employees who have been absent for COVID-related reasons, appears to be coming to an end. Following the bill's essentially unanimous passage in veto session, Gov. JB Pritzker vetoed the legislation in late January due to his objections to the benefits being available to unvaccinated individuals. Following several months of negotiations and movement through the legislative process, the bill reemerged as HB 1167 and has been passed by both chambers as of yesterday. It now heads to the Governor's desk, where we expect him to sign it into law.

Key Provisions of Administrative Leave Requirements

The bill will require school districts to return any sick days that a fully vaccinated employee used during the current school year due to:

- Having COVID-19; or

- Being excluded from school as the result of being a “close contact” to a person with COVID-19; or
- Being excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms; or
- Needing to care for a child who:
 - had a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis; or
 - was excluded from school as the result of being a “close contact” to a person with COVID-19; or
 - was excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms.

These same provisions will apply for any fully vaccinated employee who misses work for these reasons in the future, so long as the Governor still has a disaster proclamation in place due to public health concerns related to COVID-19. The bill does provide that a school district can require documentation for an employee who is out on administrative leave.

An additional provision that was included in HB 1167 is that these same benefits must be afforded to any employee who becomes fully vaccinated within five weeks of the bill being signed by the Governor and becoming law.

For the purposes of this bill, an employee is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose of a 2-dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after receiving a single dose COVID-19 vaccine.

Key Provisions of the Paycheck Protection Provision

While the paid administrative leave portion of this bill may have received the most media attention, another section of this bill that was of concern to our members was what has been referred to as the “paycheck protection provision.” This section of the bill requires school districts to pay all educational support personnel during school closures and e-learning days if the employee would have reported to work, but for the closure.

The original language of the bill would have required districts to pay support personnel on emergency days, even if the district planned to make that day up at the end of the year, leading to employees being paid twice in those situations. We were successful in negotiating language into an amendment that ensures school districts will not be required to pay the employee if the day is made up and the employee will be paid their daily rate at the time the school day is rescheduled.

Session Wrap Up

If all goes as planned, legislators still plan to wrap up the 102nd General Assembly next Friday, April 8th. Be on the lookout for a Capitol Watch summarizing the bills that made it through this session, and hopefully information about a positive education budget for FY23. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Madeline McCune
Director of Governmental Relations
Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials

Emily Warnecke
Director of Public Relations/Deputy Director of Governmental Relations
Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials

4/1/22, 4:17 PM

Pana Community Unit School District #8 Mail - Fwd: Capitol Watch: Update on COVID Leave Days Legislation

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