Action Sheet

MEETING DATE:

August 25, 2021

AGENDA ITEM:

Discuss and consider revising DEC(LOCAL)

Senate Bill 1359, effective September 1, 2021, requires a law enforcement agency that employs peace officers to adopt a policy allowing the use of paid mental health leave by officers who experience a traumatic event in the scope of employment. A district that employs peace officers is subject to the requirements.

The policy must provide clear and objective guidelines for the granting and use of mental health leave, make the leave available without a deduction in compensation, state the number of leave days available, and detail the level of anonymity for a peace officer taking such leave. The policy may, but is not required to, list mental health services available to peace officers in the area.

House Bill (HB) 2073, effective June 15, 2021, creates a new category of leave for persons in certain jobs, including peace officers who are employees of a school district. The bill requires the board to adopt and implement a paid quarantine leave policy for district peace officers who are ordered to isolate or quarantine because of possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty.

Because the law restricts a district from reducing the person's sick leave, vacation leave, holiday leave, or other paid leave balance in connection with paid quarantine leave under this statute, this leave is in addition to existing leave.

RECOMMENDATION:

I move that the Board revise policy DEC (LOCAL) to address Leave for peace officers.

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Superintendent