

HOUSE No. 4341

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 25, 2016

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled "An Act to Reform Sick Time."

This bill will limit sick time accruals that have led to excessive payouts upon retirement from state government by capping the accrual of sick time for state employees in the Executive Department at no more than 1,000 hours.

The bill grandfathers in approximately 5,800 state employees who have accrued more than 1,000 hours. These employees will be capped at the number of hours they have accrued as of the date of enactment.

The legislation ensures that the use of sick time is consistent with its intended purpose, which is to help employees deal with health and family issues and not to provide a retirement bonus. It will also bring Massachusetts in line with other states and the private sector. Accordingly, I urge you to enact this legislation promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor

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Message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to to reform sick time.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act to reform sick time.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to reform the laws governing the accrual of sick leave for public employees, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31A of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:- (e) No employee of the
3 commonwealth shall accrue more than 1,000 hours of unused sick leave credits.

4 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any employee
5 of the commonwealth who has accrued more than 1,000 hours of unused sick leave credits as of
6 the effective date of this act shall not accrue credits in excess of those credits, but may accrue
7 credits for any sick time that is used after the effective date of this act.

8 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, section 1 shall
9 take effect for any employee of the commonwealth who has accrued not more than 1,000 hours
10 of unused sick leave credits, on the effective date of this act.

11 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the personnel
12 administrator shall promulgate revised rules under the second paragraph of section 28 of chapter
13 7 of the General Laws to incorporate the changes enacted in section 1, which revisions shall take
14 effect as soon as practicable after the effective date of this act.