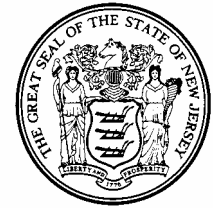


News From NJ Senate Democrats



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SMITH BILL CREATING SCHOOL SICK LEAVE BANKS APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

TRENTON - A bill sponsored by Senator Bob Smith, which would establish sick leave banks for school board employees, was approved in the Senate Education Committee today.

"Sick leave banks have proven very effective in the private sector," said Senator Smith, D-Middlesex and Somerset. "They allow employees who are seriously ill or who are caring for a family member who is seriously ill to spend a little more time with their loved ones or getting well, without having to worry about where their next paycheck is coming from."

The bill, S-193, would permit the establishment of a sick leave bank for employees of a board of education, for the purpose of allowing employees to draw needed sick days in addition to any other days they are otherwise entitled. These sick leave bank days would stem from accrued sick days previously donated to the bank by employees of the board of education. The sick leave bank would be administered by a six-person committee, consisting of three members of the board of education and three members of the employees eligible to participate in the bank.

"School board employees who are seriously ill need to focus on getting well, not on how many days of paid leave they have left," said Senator Smith. "Sick banks have already proven their worth in corporate New Jersey. It seems only logical that we take the next step and extend the option to school boards as well."

The bill now awaits action by the full Senate.

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