

from a duly licensed physician before receiving any pay for the period of such absence. The Secretary of the Department of Personnel may advance up to [sixty] 60 days of sick leave to an employee in any calendar year for a serious disability, ailment or illness.

Such annual vacation leave credits shall accrue to the employee after his first six months of State service, on a pro rata basis, and shall be available to him for such purpose at any time thereafter, with the approval of the head of the department. Sick leave credits shall accrue from the beginning of the employee's State service, on a pro rata basis, and shall be available to him for such purpose as earned, providing that whenever the employee must be absent from work because of a death in his immediate family, such absence may be charged against either earned annual vacation or earned sick leave, at the option of the employee.

Every employee shall be entitled to personal leave with pay for not in excess of three [(3)] days in any calendar year; provided, that personal leave may not be accumulated and any unused personal leave as of the end of the calendar year shall be forfeited. Personal leave days may be used for religious holidays, inclement weather or any other purpose whatsoever, provided permission is obtained from the department head. The department head may not deny permission if personal leave is requested for observance of religious holidays.

Each classified employee, upon termination from the classified service other than by retirement, shall forfeit any accumulated sick leave. Upon termination by retirement, each classified employee is entitled to have his accumulated sick leave days added to his creditable service for the purposes of determining his retirement benefits under Article 73B of this Code. A State employee who came into the State system while retaining sick leave and annual leave benefits under a county system and who came under the provisions of Chapter 423 of the Acts of 1971 shall be entitled to the same full credit toward retirement as provided by this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1976.

Approved May 17, 1976.

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CHAPTER 751

(House Bill 1290)