

State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

- CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION BULLETIN -

Date: August 24, 1998

Locator No: CC/POL-49

Subject: Notification of Statutory Changes Regarding Leaves of Absence for Certain State Employees to Participate in Providing Certain Disaster Relief Services

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform appointing authorities, personnel and payroll staff of statutory changes that provide authority for granting leaves of absences for certain state employees to participate in providing certain disaster relief services effective August 1, 1998.

Briefly stated, the attached 1997 Wisconsin Act 118 allows an appointing authority to grant a leave of absence to a **nonrepresented** state employee to participate in providing specialized disaster relief services for a disaster occurring in the state. It also allows the governor to authorize appointing authorities to grant similar leaves for disasters occurring outside of this state. "Specialized disaster relief services" mean professional, technical or other services requiring advanced training or expertise provided to assist persons affected by a disaster.

Such a leave of absence may not exceed 30 workdays each year. While on the leave of absence, an employee will remain in pay status. To be granted such a leave, the following conditions must be met:

- The employee must be a certified disaster service volunteer of the American Red Cross.
- The American Red Cross must submit a written request to the employee's appointing authority for the services of the employee that specifies who has requested the assistance of the American Red Cross in the particular disaster.
- The employee must have permanent status if the employee's position is included in the classified service.
- The leaves of absence must conform with any rules of the secretary regarding specialized disaster relief services that may be created under the authority of s. 230.35 (3) (e) 5., Wis. Stats. At this time, no administrative rules exist or are contemplated on this subject, other than a brief cross reference to the new law.

Questions or comments regarding this bulletin may be directed to Paul Ostrowski, at (608) 267-0343 or Jeanne Meyer, at (608) 267-5164.

James A. Pankratz, Administrator
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JAP:PLO

Attachment: 1997 Wisconsin Act 118

(URL: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/billtext/acts/97Act118.pdf>)