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If you have questions about this update or any other update, please contact us at ecompliance@laborlawcenter.com or call 1-800-745-9970.

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VESSA - VICTIMS' ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT



Department of Labor **IDOL**
State of Illinois

Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA)

Required Posting for Employers

VESSA provides employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence, and employees who have a family or household member who is a victim of such violence, with unpaid, job-guaranteed leave; reasonable accommodations; and protections from discrimination and retaliation.

This time may be used if the employee or the employee's family or household member is:

- experiencing an incident of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence
- is recovering from the violence;
- is seeking or receiving medical help, legal assistance (including participation in legal proceedings), counseling, safety planning, or other assistance;
- temporarily or permanently relocating; or
- to take other actions to increase the safety of the victim from future domestic, sexual, or gender violence, or any other crime of violence.

NOTICE – Employees must provide the employer with at least 48 hours prior notice, unless providing advance notice is not practicable. If an employee is unable to provide advance notice, an employee must provide notice when an employee is able to do so, within a reasonable period of time after the absence.

CERTIFICATION – An employer may require the employee to provide certification of the domestic, sexual, or gender violence, or any other crime of violence, and that leave is to address the violence. Certification may include a sworn statement of the employee and other documentation such as a letter from a victims' services organization, a court record, or any other corroborating evidence, but only if that documentation is in the possession of the employee. The employee may choose which documentation to submit. The employer may not require more than one document related to the same incident or perpetrator of violence in one year. All information related to domestic, sexual, or gender violence, or any other crime of violence, is to be kept in the strictest confidence by the employer.

DURATION OF LEAVE – VESSA provides that employees working for an employer with at least 1 employee, but no more than 14 employees, are entitled to a total of 4 workweeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period. Employees working for an employer with at least 15, but no more than 49 employees, are entitled to a total of 8 workweeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period. And employees working for an employer with at least 50 employees are entitled to a total of 12 workweeks

of unpaid leave during any 12-month period.

Leave permitted during a 12-month period under the act based on number of employees:

Number of employees	Leave permitted
1-14 employees	4 weeks
15-49 employees	8 weeks
50 or more employees	12 weeks

Leave may be taken consecutively, intermittently, or on a reduced work schedule basis.

For information on filing a complaint please call: **312-793-6797** or visit the website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/CONMED/Pages/vessa.aspx>

ACCOMMODATIONS – VESSA provides that employees are entitled to reasonable accommodations to address the needs of the victim(s). Accommodations include, but are not limited to, an adjustment to the job structure, workplace facility, work requirements, or telephone number, seating assignment, or physical security of the work area.

DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION – VESSA prohibits employers from discriminating, retaliating, or otherwise treating an employee or job applicant unfavorably if the individual involved:

- Is or is perceived to be a victim of domestic, sexual, or gender violence, or any other crime of violence;
- Attended, participated in, prepared for, or requested leave to attend, participate in, or prepare for a criminal or civil court or administrative proceeding relating to domestic, sexual, or gender violence, or any other crime of violence;
- Requested or took VESSA leave for any reason;
- Requested an accommodation, regardless of whether the accommodation was granted;
- The workplace is disrupted or threatened by the action of a person whom the individual states has committed or threatened to commit domestic, sexual, or gender violence, or any other crime of violence, against the individual or the individual's family or household member; or
- Exercised any other rights under VESSA.

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