

## **History of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act**

H.R. 626, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009, is identical to the version of the bill that was introduced on April 14, 2008 as H.R. 5781 by Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney, Steny H. Hoyer, and Tom Davis. This version of the bill reflects the amendment providing for four weeks of paid leave<sup>1</sup>. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Henry Waxman and Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia Chairman Danny Davis helped move the bill to the floor. Senators Jim Webb and John Warner introduced companion legislation in the Senate as S. 3140 in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

H.R. 5781 passed the House of Representatives on June 16, 2008, by a 278-146 vote. Shortly afterwards, the White House issued a statement indicating that then-President Bush's advisors recommended that he veto the bill. The Statement of Administration Policy argued that the measure "would provide a costly, unnecessary new paid leave entitlement."

The bill was introduced in the Senate following its passage in the House. Subsequently, it was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia on July 21, 2008. However, action in the Senate was not completed before the last session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney reintroduced the bill as H.R. 626 on January 22, 2009, along with Representatives Frank Wolf, Steny Hoyer, Danny K. Davis, and Edolphus Towns. Senator Jim Webb reintroduced the bill as S. 354. Original co-sponsors included Senators Cardin, Mikulsi, Menendez, McCaskill, Casey, Gillibrand, Kerry, Lautenberg, Lieberman, Sanders, and Stabenow.

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<sup>1</sup> During Subcommittee consideration of H.R. 5781 in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, the bill was amended to provide four weeks of paid parental leave, instead of the eight weeks in the original bill. Thus, H.R. 5781 as it passed the House of Representatives on June 16, 2008 called for four weeks of paid parental leave, and was identical to H.R. 626.