



Only **43** Days Left for the Do-Nothing Legislature to Act

The Do-Nothing Legislature's Sick Pay Proposal Won't Cure New Jersey Taxpayers

If Legislative Democrats get their way, New Jersey taxpayers will still be on the hook for at least **\$3.25 BILLION** in sick pay

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Committed to putting the desires of the special interests ahead of relieving New Jersey taxpayers, the Do-Nothing Legislature's sick pay proposal would continue the abuse of cashing in unused sick days to the tune of \$7,500 per employee. Under the Democratic version of reform, the already **\$825 MILLION** in accrued liability for current workforces in New Jersey's municipalities would pale in comparison to an never-ending burden forced on the backs of all New Jerseyans.

And They Call This Reform? Democratic Plan Allows for Huge Future Tax Liability for Next Generation of Public Worker Payouts

Going forward, the Democrat's \$7,500 sick pay cap based on the current 434,017 state and local employees would cost New Jersey taxpayers at a minimum a staggering **\$3.25 BILLION** in sick pay.

While forcing taxpayers to continue to pay multi-billion dollar bills in unused sick day payouts might mean reform to the Do-Nothing Legislature, New Jerseyans deserve a remedy that will once and for all end this taxing condition.

The Governor provided the Do-Nothing Legislature with the necessary sick pay reforms [over five months ago](#) and they have certainly lived up to their name by doing nothing about it.

That hasn't stopped Senate President Sweeney from fabricating the truth on the topic to the [Gloucester County Times](#):

"You can't take someone who's been there for 25 years, has accrued \$100,000 in sick leave, and just say 'I'm taking it.' That's what the governor is trying to do."

False. The Governor's conditional veto is quite simple when it comes to its treatment of sick pay going forward – any sick days that are accrued after the bill is enacted can no longer be cashed out at taxpayer expense. Any previously accrued sick time (what Sweeney is referring to above) remains eligible for cash-out. But, under the Governor's proposal, an employee would have to use those previously-accrued days first when they are actually sick and use the time for its intended purpose.

The Governor's proposal would simply make sick time what it should have always been; accrued time an employee could use when they are actually sick, not a lump sum cash bonus for employees who are healthy and have already been paid for those work days.

It is clear that ending sick day payouts is a no-brainer, and these following editorials agree:

“With municipal workers getting out while the getting is good, towns must come up with the dough to pay for unused sick and vacation time that has been banked for decades. For some municipalities, the payouts have been so large they’ve had to borrow money to make them. That’s right, towns are laying off cops and borrowing money to stuff the pockets of departing ones. **It’s fiscal insanity.** Municipalities face a sick time accrual liability of approximately \$825 million. ... It’s time to cut the deal: **No more money for unused sick and vacation time.**” (Editorial, “Large payouts are a sick joke,” [The Star-Ledger](#), 5/15/11)

“The real problem is that **sick time should never have been treated as a bank or some ill-fated retirement bonus.** Forget the caps. **End the sick time payouts now.** The health of local municipal budgets depends on it.” (Editorial, “Gov. Chris Christie must take hard line to end sick time payouts N.J. workers,” [Times of Trenton](#), 5/15/11)

“Total accumulated municipal sick/vacation leave liability in New Jersey is \$825 million, according to the governor. Accumulation of sick/vacation time over years and years, so employees can claim big checks on their last day, is a problem that needs a prompt reversal. **The Legislature hasn't provided one.**” (Editorial, “Do-nothing tag fits, to a point,” [The Gloucester County Times](#), 5/11/11)

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