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State of Minnesota

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 3448

- 03/08/2018 Authored by Quam
- The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Reform
- 03/19/2018 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register
- Read for the Second Time
- 05/09/2018 Referred to the Chief Clerk for Comparison with S. F. No. 3102
- 05/10/2018 Postponed Indefinitely

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to health; changing isolation and quarantine provisions; amending

1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2016, sections 144.419, subdivision 1; 144.4196, subdivisions

1.4 1, 2.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 144.419, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of sections 144.419 to 144.4196, the following

1.8 definitions apply:

1.9 (1) "bioterrorism" means the intentional use of any microorganism, virus, infectious

1.10 substance, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology, or any

1.11 naturally occurring or bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus, infectious

1.12 substance, or biological product, to cause death, disease, or other biological malfunction in

1.13 a human, an animal, a plant, or another living organism in order to influence the conduct

1.14 of government or to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

1.15 (2) "communicable disease" means a disease ~~caused by a living organism or virus and~~

1.16 ~~believed to be caused by bioterrorism or a new or novel or previously controlled or eradicated~~

1.17 ~~infectious agent or biological toxin~~ that can be transmitted person to person and for which

1.18 isolation or quarantine is an effective control strategy, ~~excluding~~ including:

- 1.19 (i) viral hemorrhagic fevers;
- 1.20 (ii) severe acute respiratory syndromes;
- 1.21 (iii) influenza that can cause a pandemic;
- 1.22 (iv) a disease caused by bioterrorism;

2.1 (v) a new or novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological
 2.2 toxin; or

2.3 (vi) any communicable disease published in an executive order issued or amended by
 2.4 the president of the United States.

2.5 Communicable disease excludes a disease that is directly transmitted as defined under
 2.6 section 144.4172, subdivision 5;

2.7 (3) "isolation" means separation, during the period of communicability, of a person
 2.8 infected with a communicable disease, in a place and under conditions so as to prevent
 2.9 direct or indirect transmission of an infectious agent to others; and

2.10 (4) "quarantine" means restriction, during a period of communicability, of activities or
 2.11 travel of an otherwise healthy person who likely has been exposed to a communicable
 2.12 disease to prevent disease transmission during the period of communicability in the event
 2.13 the person is infected.

2.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 144.4196, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.15 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section:

2.16 (1) "qualifying employee" means a person who performs services for hire in Minnesota
 2.17 and who has been subject to isolation or quarantine, or has responsibility for the care of a
 2.18 person under subdivision 2 who is subject to isolation or quarantine, for a communicable
 2.19 disease as defined in section 144.419, subdivision 1, clause (2). The term applies to persons
 2.20 who comply with isolation or quarantine restrictions because of:

2.21 (i) a commissioner's directive;

2.22 (ii) an order of a federal quarantine officer;

2.23 (iii) a state or federal court order; or

2.24 (iv) a written recommendation of the commissioner or designee that the person enter
 2.25 isolation or quarantine; and

2.26 (2) "employer" means any person having one or more employees in Minnesota and
 2.27 includes the state and any political subdivision of the state.

3.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 144.4196, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

3.2 Subd. 2. **Protections.** (a) An employer shall not discharge, discipline, threaten, or penalize
3.3 a qualifying employee, or otherwise discriminate in the work terms, conditions, location,
3.4 or privileges of the employee, because the employee:

3.5 (1) has been in isolation or quarantine; or

3.6 (2)(i) is not in isolation or quarantine, but has responsibility for the care of a person in
3.7 isolation or quarantine who is a minor or an adult family member who is a disabled or
3.8 vulnerable adult; and

3.9 (ii) has assumed responsibility for all or a portion of the care voluntarily, by contract,
3.10 or by agreement.

3.11 (b) A qualifying employee claiming a violation of paragraph (a) may bring a civil action
3.12 for recovery of lost wages or benefits, for reinstatement, or for other relief within 180 days
3.13 of the claimed violation or 180 days of the end of the isolation or quarantine, whichever is
3.14 later. A qualifying employee who prevails shall be allowed reasonable attorney fees fixed
3.15 by the court.

3.16 (c) Nothing in this subdivision is intended to alter sick leave or sick pay terms of the
3.17 employment relationship.