STATE OF NEW YORK

OFFICIAL COPY CHAP362LAWS OF 2015

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2015

Introduced by Sens. SAVINO, LITTLE, GOLDEN, ROBACH, HANNON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to the prohibition of differential pay because of sex

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 194 of the labor law, as added by chapter 548 of the laws of 1966, is amended and three new subdivisions 3 2, 3 and 4 are added to read as follows:
- 1. No employee shall be paid a wage at a rate less than the rate at which an employee of the opposite sex in the same establishment is paid for equal work on a job the performance of which requires equal skill, effort and responsibility, and which is performed under similar working conditions, except where payment is made pursuant to a differential based on:
- 10 a. a seniority system;
- 11 b. a merit system;

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- 12 c. a system which measures earnings by quantity or quality of 13 production; or
- d. [any other factor other than sex] a bona fide factor other than sex, such as education, training, or experience. Such factor: (i) shall
- 16 not be based upon or derived from a sex-based differential in compen-
- 17 sation and (ii) shall be job-related with respect to the position in
- 18 question and shall be consistent with business necessity. Such exception
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- 19 under this paragraph shall not apply when the employee demonstrates (A)
- 20 that an employer uses a particular employment practice that causes a
- 21 disparate impact on the basis of sex, (B) that an alternative employment
- 22 practice exists that would serve the same business purpose and not 23 produce such differential, and (C) that the employer has refused to
- 24 adopt such alternative practice.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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2. For the purpose of subdivision one of this section, "business necessity" shall be defined as a factor that bears a manifest relationship to the employment in question.

3. For the purposes of subdivision one of this section, employees shall be deemed to work in the same establishment if the employees work for the same employer at workplaces located in the same geographical region, no larger than a county, taking into account population distribution, economic activity, and/or the presence of municipalities.

4. (a) No employer shall prohibit an employee from inquiring about, discussing, or disclosing the wages of such employee or another employee.

(b) An employer may, in a written policy provided to all employees, establish reasonable workplace and workday limitations on the time, place and manner for inquires about, discussion of, or the disclosure of wages. Such limitations shall be consistent with standards promulgated by the commissioner and shall be consistent with all other state and federal laws. Such limitations may include prohibiting an employee from discussing or disclosing the wages of another employee without such employee's prior permission.

(c) Nothing in this subdivision shall require an employee to disclose his or her wages. The failure of an employee to adhere to such reasonable limitations in such written policy shall be an affirmative defense to any claims made against an employer under this subdivision, provided that any adverse employment action taken by the employer was for failure to adhere to such reasonable limitations and not for mere inquiry, discussion or disclosure of wages in accordance with such reasonable limitations in such written policy.

(d) This prohibition shall not apply to instances in which an employee who has access to the wage information of other employees as a part of such employee's essential job functions discloses the wages of such other employees to individuals who do not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a complaint or charge, or in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action under this chapter, including an investigation conducted by the employer.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the rights of an employee provided under any other provision of law or collective bargaining agreement.

§ 2. Subdivision 1-a of section 198 of the labor law, as amended by chapter 564 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

1-a. On behalf of any employee paid less than the wage to which he or she is entitled under the provisions of this article, the commissioner may bring any legal action necessary, including administrative action, to collect such claim and as part of such legal action, in addition to any other remedies and penalties otherwise available under this article, the commissioner shall assess against the employer the full amount of any such underpayment, and an additional amount as liquidated damages, unless the employer proves a good faith basis for believing that its underpayment of wages was in compliance with the law. Liquidated damages shall be calculated by the commissioner as no more than one hundred percent of the total amount of wages found to be due, except such liquidated damages may be up to three hundred percent of the total amount of the wages found to be due for a willful violation of section one hundred ninety-four of this article. In any action instituted in the courts upon a wage claim by an employee or the commissioner in which the employee prevails, the court shall allow such employee to recover the full amount

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1 of any underpayment, all reasonable attorney's fees, prejudgment interest as required under the civil practice law and rules, and, unless the employer proves a good faith basis to believe that its underpayment of wages was in compliance with the law, an additional amount as liquidated damages equal to one hundred percent of the total amount of the wages found to be due, except such liquidated damages may be up to three hundred percent of the total amount of the wages found to be due for a willful violation of section one hundred ninety-four of this article.

- § 3. The department of labor and the division of human rights shall make training available to assist employers in developing training, policies and procedures to address discrimination and harassment in the workplace including, but not limited to issues relating to pregnancy, familial status, pay equity and sexual harassment. Such training shall take into account the needs of employers of various sizes. The department and division shall make such training available through, including but not limited to, online means. In developing such training materials, the department and division shall afford the public an opportunity to submit comments on such training.
- § 4. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivi-19 sion, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by a court of compe-20 tent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part 23 thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.
- 27 § 5. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall 28 have become a law; provided, however, that the commissioner of labor 29 shall take actions necessary to provide for the promulgation of stand-30 ards pursuant to subdivision 4 of section 194 of the labor law, as added by section one of this act, prior to this act taking effect; and provided further, however, that the department of labor and division of human rights shall take actions necessary to establish training pursuant to section three of this act prior to this act taking effect.

STATE OF NEW YORK DEFICIAL CON

CHAP3/3 LAWS OF 20/5

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2015

Introduced by Sens. VALESKY, LITTLE, GOLDEN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to unlawful discriminatory practices

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 292 of the executive law, as amended by chapter 481 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:
- 5. The term "employer" does not include any employer with fewer than 5 four persons in his or her employ except as set forth in section two hundred ninety-six-b of this [title] article, provided, however, that in the case of an action for discrimination based on sex pursuant to subdivision one of section two hundred ninety-six of this article, with respect to sexual harassment only, the term "employer" shall include all employers within the state.
- § 2. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair 14 or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its opera-15 tion to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part 16 thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment 17 shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the 18 legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.
- § 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall 20

have become a law.

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EXPLANATION -- Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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CHAP34LAWS OF 2015

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2015

Introduced by Sen. LITTLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to the provision of attorney's fees in cases of housing, employment or credit discrimination; to amend the executive law, in relation to the awarding of reasonable attorney's fees

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 10 of section 297 of the executive law, as added by section 17 of part D of chapter 405 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

10. With respect to all cases of housing discrimination and housing related credit discrimination [only] in an action or proceeding at law under this section or section two hundred ninety-eight of this article, the commissioner or the court may in its discretion award reasonable attorney's fees to any prevailing or substantially prevailing party; and with respect to a claim of employment or credit discrimination where sex 10 is a basis of such discrimination, in an action or proceeding at law under this section or section two hundred ninety-eight of this article, . 1.1 the commissioner or the court may in its discretion award reasonable attorney's fees attributable to such claim to any prevailing party; provided, however, that a prevailing respondent or defendant in order to recover such reasonable attorney's fees must make a motion requesting such fees and show that the action or proceeding brought was frivolous; and further provided that in a proceeding brought in the division of human rights, the commissioner may only award attorney's fees as part of a final order after a public hearing held pursuant to subdivision four of this section. In no case shall attorney's fees be awarded to the division, nor shall the division be liable to a prevailing or substantially prevailing party for attorney's fees, except in a case in which the division is a party to the action or the proceeding in the divi-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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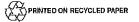


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sion's capacity as an employer. In cases of employments discrimination, a respondent shall only be Mable for attorney's fees under this subdivision if the respondent has been found liable for having committed an unlawful discriminatory practice. In order to find the action or proceeding to be frivolous, the court of the commissioner must find in writing one or more of the following:

- (a) the action or proceeding was commenced, used or continued in bad faith, solely to delay or prolong the resolution of the litigation or to harass or maliciously injure another; or
- (b) the action or proceeding was commenced or continued in bad faith without any reasonable basis and could not be supported by a good faith argument for an extension, modification or reversal of existing law. If the action or proceeding was promptly discontinued when the party or attorney learned or should have learned that the action or proceeding lacked such a reasonable basis, the court may find that the party or the attorney did not act in bad faith.
- 17 § 2. Paragraph c of subdivision 7 of section 296-a of the executive 18 law, as amended by chapter 632 of the laws of 1976, is amended to read 19 as follows:
 - c. If the superintendent finds that a violation of this section has occurred, the superintendent shall issue an order which shall do one or more of the following:
 - (1) impose a fine in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation, to be paid to the people of the state of New York;
 - (2) award compensatory damages to the person aggrieved by such violation;
 - (3) for a claim of sex discrimination only, award reasonable attorney's fees attributable to such claim to any prevailing party; provided, however, that a prevailing respondent or defendant in order to recover such reasonable attorney's fees must make a motion requesting such fees and show that the action or proceeding brought was frivolous. In no case shall attorney's fees be awarded to the department, nor shall the department be liable to a prevailing party for attorney's fees. In order to find the action or proceeding to be frivolous, the superintendent must find in writing one or more of the following:
 - (a) the action or proceeding was commenced, used or continued in bad faith, solely to delay or prolong the resolution of the litigation or to harass or maliciously injure another; or
 - (b) the action or proceeding was commenced or continued in bad faith without any reasonable basis and could not be supported by a good faith argument for an extension, modification or reversal of existing law. If the action or proceeding was promptly discontinued when the party or attorney learned or should have learned that the action or proceeding lacked such a reasonable basis, the court may find that the party or the attorney did not act in bad faith.
 - (4) require the regulated creditor to cease and desist from such unlawful discriminatory practices;
 - [(4)] (5) require the regulated creditor to take such further affirmative action as will effectuate the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, granting the credit which was the subject of the complaint.
- complaint.

 52 § 3. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivi53 sion, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by a court of compe54 tent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair
 55 or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its opera56 tion to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part



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thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid

provisions had not been included herein.

S 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law, and shall apply to actions commenced on or after such date.

STATE OF NEW YORK OFFICIAL COPY

CHAP366LAWS OF 2065

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2015

Introduced by Sens. LITTLE, ROBACH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to unlawful discriminatory practice because of familial status

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivisions 1 and 1-a of section 296 of the executive law, as amended by chapter 803 of the laws of 1975, paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 80 of the laws of 2009, paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 75 of the laws of 2005, paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 166 of the laws of 2000, paragraph (g) of subdivision 1 as added by chapter 98 of the laws of 1984 and paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subdivision 1-a as amended by chapter 106 of the laws of 2003, are amended to read as follows:

1. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice:

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- (a) For an employer or licensing agency, because of an individual's age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, <u>familial status</u>, marital status, or domestic violence victim status, to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment such individual or to discriminate against such individual in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment.
- (b) For an employment agency to discriminate against any individual because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, or marital status, in receiving, classifying, disposing or otherwise acting upon applications for its services or in referring an applicant or applicants to an employer or employers.
- 23 (c) For a labor organization, because of the age, race, creed, color, 24 national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, 25 predisposing genetic characteristics, <u>familial status</u>, or marital status

EXPLANATION--Matter in <u>italics</u> (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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2 \$ 500 B of any individual to exclude or to expel from its membership such individual or to discriminate in any way against any of its members or against any employer or any individual employed by an employer.

- (d) For any employer for employment agendy to print or circulate or cause to be printed or circulated any statement, advertisement or publication, or to use any form of application for employment or to make any inquiry in connection with prospective employment, which expresses directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification or discrimination as to age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, or marital status, or any intent to make any such limitation, specification or discrimination, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification; provided, however, that neither this paragraph nor any provision of this chapter or other law shall be construed to prohibit the department of civil service or the department of personnel of any city containing more than one county from requesting information from applicants for civil service examinations concerning any of the aforementioned characteristics, other than sexual orientation, for the purpose of conducting studies to identify and resolve possible problems in recruitment and testing of members of minority groups to insure the fairest possible and equal opportunities for employment in the civil service for all persons, regardless of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, or marital status.
- (e) For any employer, labor organization or employment agency to discharge, expel or otherwise discriminate against any person because he or she has opposed any practices forbidden under this article or because he or she has filed a complaint, testified or assisted in any proceeding under this article.
- (f) Nothing in this subdivision shall affect any restrictions upon the activities of persons licensed by the state liquor authority with respect to persons under twenty-one years of age.
- (g) For an employer to compel an employee who is pregnant to take a leave of absence, unless the employee is prevented by such pregnancy from performing the activities involved in the job or occupation in a reasonable manner.
- 1-a. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for an employer, labor organization, employment agency or any joint labor-management committee controlling apprentice training programs:
- (a) To select persons for an apprentice training program registered with the state of New York on any basis other than their qualifications, as determined by objective criteria which permit review;
- (b) To deny to or withhold from any person because of race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, age, disability, familial status, or marital status, the right to be admitted to or participate in a guidance program, an apprenticeship training program, on-the-job training program, executive training program, or other occupational training or retraining program;
- (c) To discriminate against any person in his or her pursuit of such programs or to discriminate against such a person in the terms, conditions or privileges of such programs because of race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, age, disability, familial status or marital status;
- (d) To print or circulate or cause to be printed or circulated any 54 statement, advertisement or publication, or to use any form of applica-55 tion for such programs or to make any inquiry in connection with such

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program which expresses, directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification or discrimination as to race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, age, disability, familial status or marital status, or any intention to make any such limitation, specification or discrimination, unless based on a bona fide occupational qualification.

- § 2. Subdivision 3 of section 296 of the executive law is amended by adding a new paragraph (c) to read as follows:
- or in the chapter of the laws of two thousand fifteen which added this paragraph shall alter, diminish, increase, or create new or additional requirements to accommodate protected classes pursuant to this article other than the additional requirements as explicitly set forth in such chapter of the laws of two thousand fifteen.
- § 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 9 of section 296 of the executive law, as amended by chapter 106 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:
- (a) It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any fire department or fire company therein, through any member or members thereof, officers, board of fire commissioners or other body or office having power of appointment of volunteer firefighters, directly or indirectly, by ritualistic practice, constitutional or by-law prescription, by tacit agreement among its members, or otherwise, to deny to any individual membership in any volunteer fire department or fire company therein, or to expel or discriminate against any volunteer member of a fire department or fire company therein, because of the race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex [or], marital status, or familial status, of such individual.
- § 4. Subdivision 13 of section 296 of the executive law, as amended by chapter 196 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:
- 13. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice (i) for any person to boycott or blacklist, or to refuse to buy from, sell to or trade with, or otherwise discriminate against any person, because of the race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, [or] disability, or familial status, of such person, or of such person's partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, managers, superintendents, agents, employees, business associates, suppliers or customers, or (ii) for any person wilfully to do any act or refrain from doing any act which enables any such person to take such action. This subdivision shall not apply to:
 - (a) Boycotts connected with labor disputes; or
 - (b) Boycotts to protest unlawful discriminatory practices.
- § 5. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.
- 52 § 6. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall

53 have become a law.

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STATE OF NEW YORK

CHAP 3/ALAWS OF 20/5

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2015

Introduced by Sens. HANNON, CARLUCCI, ROBACH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to reasonable accommodation

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 21-e of section 292 of the executive law, as added by chapter 269 of the laws of 1997, is amended and a new subdivision 21-f is added to read as follows:

21-e. The term "reasonable accommodation" means actions taken which permit an employee, prospective employee or member with a disability, or a pregnancy-related condition, to perform in a reasonable manner the activities involved in the job or occupation sought or held and include, but are not limited to, provision of an accessible worksite, acquisition or modification of equipment, support services for persons with impaired hearing or vision, job restructuring and modified work schedules; provided, however, that such actions do not impose an undue hardship on the business, program or enterprise of the entity from which action is requested.

13 14 21-f. The term "pregnancy-related condition" means a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth that inhibits the exercise of a 15 normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical 16 or laboratory diagnostic techniques; provided, however, that in all 17 provisions of this article dealing with employment, the term shall be 18 19 limited to conditions which, upon the provision of reasonable accommo-20 dations, do not prevent the complainant from performing in a reasonable 21 manner the activities involved in the job or occupation sought or held; and provided further, however, that pregnancy-related conditions shall be treated as temporary disabilities for the purposes of this article.

EXPLANATION--Matter in <u>italics</u> (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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- 1 § 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 3 of section 296 of the executive 2 law, as added by chapter 269 of the laws of 1997, is amended and a new 3 paragraph (c) is added to read as follows:
 - (a) It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for an employer, licensing agency, employment agency or labor organization to refuse to provide reasonable accommodations to the known disabilities, or pregnancy-related conditions, of an employee, prospective employee or member in connection with a job or occupation sought or held or participation in a training program.
 - (c) The employee must cooperate in providing medical or other information that is necessary to verify the existence of the disability or pregnancy-related condition, or that is necessary for consideration of the accommodation. The employee has a right to have such medical information kept confidential.
- 14 § 3. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivi-15 16 sion, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by a court of compe-17 tent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its opera-18 tion to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment 20 shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the 21 legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid 22 provisions had not been included herein. 23
- 24 § 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall 25 have become a law.

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