

3385

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 1, 2013

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Introduced by Sens. HASSELL-THOMPSON, KRUEGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to prohibiting employers from discriminating against victims of domestic violence; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1.     Subdivision 34 of section 292 of the executive law is  
2 REPEALED and a new subdivision 34 is added to read as follows:

3     34. THE TERM "VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING  
4 AS IS ASCRIBED TO SUCH TERM BY SECTION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE-A OF THE  
5 SOCIAL SERVICES LAW.

6     S 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 296 of the executive  
7 law, as amended by chapter 80 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9     (a) For an employer or licensing agency, because of an individual's  
10 age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military  
11 status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital  
12 status, or STATUS AS A VICTIM OF domestic violence [victim status], to  
13 refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment such  
14 individual or to discriminate against such individual in compensation or  
15 in terms, conditions or privileges of employment.

16     S 3. Section 296 of the executive law is amended by adding a new  
17 subdivision 20 to read as follows:

18     20. (A) IT SHALL BE AN UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE FOR AN EMPLOY-  
19 ER OR LICENSING AGENCY, BECAUSE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL'S STATUS AS A VICTIM  
20 OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, TO REFUSE TO HIRE OR EMPLOY OR LICENSE OR TO BAR  
21 OR TO DISCHARGE FROM EMPLOYMENT SUCH INDIVIDUAL OR TO DISCRIMINATE  
22 AGAINST SUCH INDIVIDUAL IN COMPENSATION OR IN TERMS, CONDITIONS OR PRIV-  
23 ILEGES OF EMPLOYMENT.

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

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1 (B) IT SHALL BE AN UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE FOR AN EMPLOYER OR  
2 EMPLOYMENT AGENCY TO PRINT OR CIRCULATE OR CAUSE TO BE PRINTED OR CIRCULATED ANY STATEMENT, ADVERTISEMENT OR PUBLICATION, OR TO USE ANY FORM OF  
3 APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OR TO MAKE ANY INQUIRY IN CONNECTION WITH  
4 PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYMENT WHICH EXPRESSES, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ANY  
5 LIMITATION, SPECIFICATION OR DISCRIMINATION AS TO STATUS AS A VICTIM OF  
6 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OR ANY INTENT TO MAKE ANY SUCH LIMITATION, SPECIFICATION OR DISCRIMINATION; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO PROVISION OF THIS  
7 SUBDIVISION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE EMPLOYER FROM MAKING ANY  
8 INQUIRY OR OBTAINING INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE  
9 TO, OR A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
10 THIS SUBDIVISION TO, A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

11 (C)(1) IT SHALL BE AN UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE FOR AN EMPLOYER  
12 TO REFUSE TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION TO AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS  
13 KNOWN BY THE EMPLOYER TO BE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, LIMITED TO  
14 THOSE ACCOMMODATIONS SET FORTH IN SUBPARAGRAPH TWO OF THIS PARAGRAPH,  
15 WHEN SUCH EMPLOYEE MUST BE ABSENT FROM WORK FOR A REASONABLE TIME,  
16 UNLESS SUCH ABSENCE WOULD CAUSE AN UNDUE HARDSHIP TO THE EMPLOYER AS SET  
17 FORTH IN SUBPARAGRAPH THREE OF THIS PARAGRAPH, PROVIDED, HOWEVER THAT  
18 THE EMPLOYER MAY REQUIRE AN EMPLOYEE TO CHARGE ANY TIME OFF PURSUANT TO  
19 THIS SECTION AGAINST ANY LEAVE WITH PAY ORDINARILY GRANTED, WHERE AVAILABLE, UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR IN A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT  
20 OR EXISTING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK OR POLICY, AND ANY SUCH ABSENCE THAT  
21 CANNOT BE CHARGED MAY BE TREATED AS LEAVE WITHOUT PAY. AN EMPLOYEE WHO  
22 MUST BE ABSENT FROM WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH TWO OF THIS  
23 PARAGRAPH SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE CONTINUATION OF ANY HEALTH INSURANCE  
24 COVERAGE PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER, TO WHICH THE EMPLOYEE IS OTHERWISE  
25 ENTITLED DURING ANY SUCH ABSENCE.

26 (2) AN EMPLOYER IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION TO  
27 AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WHO MUST BE ABSENT FROM  
28 WORK FOR A REASONABLE TIME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS PARAGRAPH, LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

29 (I) SEEKING MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR INJURIES CAUSED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
30 INCLUDING FOR A CHILD WHO IS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PROVIDED  
31 THAT THE EMPLOYEE IS NOT THE PERPETRATOR OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
32 AGAINST THE CHILD; OR

33 (II) OBTAINING SERVICES FROM A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER, PROGRAM, OR  
34 RAPE CRISIS CENTER AS A RESULT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; OR

35 (III) OBTAINING PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING RELATED TO AN INCIDENT OR  
36 INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, INCLUDING FOR A CHILD WHO IS A VICTIM OF  
37 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PROVIDED THAT THE EMPLOYEE IS NOT THE PERPETRATOR OF  
38 THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST THE CHILD; OR

39 (IV) PARTICIPATING IN SAFETY PLANNING AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS TO  
40 INCREASE SAFETY FROM FUTURE INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, INCLUDING  
41 TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT RELOCATION; OR

42 (V) OBTAINING LEGAL SERVICES, ASSISTING IN THE PROSECUTION OF THE  
43 OFFENSE, OR APPEARING IN COURT IN RELATION TO THE INCIDENT OR INCIDENTS  
44 OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

45 (3) AN EMPLOYER IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR  
46 AN EMPLOYEE'S ABSENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPHS  
47 ONE AND TWO OF THIS PARAGRAPH UNLESS THE EMPLOYER CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT  
48 THE EMPLOYEE'S ABSENCE WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNDUE HARDSHIP TO THE EMPLOYER. A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER SUCH AN ABSENCE WILL CONSTITUTE AN UNDUE  
49 HARDSHIP SHALL INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS SUCH AS:

1 (I) THE OVERALL SIZE OF THE BUSINESS, PROGRAM OR ENTERPRISE WITH  
2 RESPECT TO THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, NUMBER AND TYPE OF FACILITIES, AND  
3 SIZE OF BUDGET; AND

4 (II) THE TYPE OF OPERATION IN WHICH THE BUSINESS, PROGRAM OR ENTER-  
5 PRISE IS ENGAGED, INCLUDING THE COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF THE WORK-  
6 FORCE.

7 (4) AN EMPLOYEE WHO MUST BE ABSENT FROM WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
8 PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL PROVIDE THE  
9 EMPLOYER WITH REASONABLE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE EMPLOYEE'S ABSENCE,  
10 UNLESS SUCH ADVANCE NOTICE IS NOT FEASIBLE.

11 (5) AN EMPLOYEE WHO MUST BE ABSENT FROM WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
12 PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND WHO CANNOT FEASIBLY  
13 GIVE REASONABLE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE ABSENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPAR-  
14 AGRAPH FOUR OF THIS PARAGRAPH MUST, WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME AFTER THE  
15 ABSENCE, PROVIDE A CERTIFICATION TO THE EMPLOYER WHEN REQUESTED BY THE  
16 EMPLOYER.

17 SUCH CERTIFICATION SHALL BE IN THE FORM OF:

18 (I) A POLICE REPORT INDICATING THAT THE EMPLOYEE OR HIS OR HER CHILD  
19 WAS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;

20 (II) A COURT ORDER PROTECTING OR SEPARATING THE EMPLOYEE OR HIS OR HER  
21 CHILD FROM THE PERPETRATOR OF AN ACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;

22 (III) OTHER EVIDENCE FROM THE COURT OR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY THAT THE  
23 EMPLOYEE APPEARED IN COURT; OR

24 (IV) DOCUMENTATION FROM A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
25 ADVOCATE, HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, OR COUNSELOR THAT THE EMPLOYEE OR HIS OR  
26 HER CHILD WAS UNDERGOING COUNSELING OR TREATMENT FOR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL  
27 INJURIES OR ABUSE RESULTING IN VICTIMIZATION FROM AN ACT OF DOMESTIC  
28 VIOLENCE.

29 (6) WHERE AN EMPLOYEE HAS A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY RESULTING  
30 FROM AN INCIDENT OR SERIES OF INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SUCH  
31 EMPLOYEE SHALL BE TREATED IN THE SAME MANNER AS AN EMPLOYEE WITH ANY  
32 OTHER DISABILITY, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION WHICH  
33 PROVIDE THAT DISCRIMINATION AND REFUSAL TO PROVIDE REASONABLE ACCOMMO-  
34 DATION OF DISABILITY ARE UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES.

35 (D) TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW, EMPLOYERS SHALL MAINTAIN THE CONFI-  
36 DENTIALITY OF ANY INFORMATION REGARDING AN EMPLOYEE'S STATUS AS A VICTIM  
37 OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

38 S 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
39 have become a law.