

STATE OF NEW YORK

8521

IN SENATE

June 6, 2020

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

AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to establishing a racial equity, social justice, and implicit bias training program for all civil service appointees

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

1 Section 1. The civil service law is amended by adding a new section
2 153 to read as follows:

3 § 153. Racial equity, social justice, and implicit bias training. 1.
4 a. The department shall consult with the division of human rights to
5 produce a model training program on racial equity, social justice, and
6 implicit bias.

7 b. Such model racial equity, social justice, and implicit bias train-
8 ing prevention policy shall be interactive and include:

9 (i) a definition, explanation, and examples of racial equity, social
10 justice, and implicit bias consistent with guidance issued by the
11 department in consultation with the division of human rights;

12 (ii) examples of conduct that would be examples of violating equity,
13 social justice, race, or implicit bias principles;

14 (iii) information concerning best practices to avoid inequity, social
15 injustice, racial, or implicit bias by a civil service appointee in
16 actions connected to their professional work;

17 (iv) information regarding the impact of racial equity, social
18 justice, and implicit bias may have on individuals across the state;

19 (v) examples of racial inequities and their impact on communities of
20 color;

21 (vi) information concerning employees' rights of redress and all
22 available forums for adjudicating complaints; and

23 (vii) any other information the department and the division of human
24 rights deems relevant and appropriate for such a course.

25 c. The department shall include information in such model training
26 program addressing conduct by supervisors that are contrary to any state
27 policy on racial equity, social justice, and implicit bias, and shall

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

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1 include information as to how to report concerns regarding supervisor
2 conduct.

3 d. Every employer with employees subject to this chapter shall utilize
4 the model training program pursuant to this subdivision or establish a
5 training program for employees that equals or exceeds the minimum stand-
6 ards of this section, and such training program has been approved by the
7 department and the division of human rights.

8 e. The model training program created pursuant to this section, and
9 any equivalent program shall be reviewed and reapproved by the depart-
10 ment and the division of human rights on a biennial basis.

11 2. Every person who is a civil service appointee on the effective date
12 of this section shall be required to complete the model racial equity,
13 social justice, and implicit bias training program, produced pursuant to
14 subdivision one of this section, or an equivalent approved by the
15 department and the division of human rights, within one year of the
16 effective date of this section. Each person who is appointed to a civil
17 service position after the effective date of this section, shall be
18 required to complete the model racial equity, social justice, and
19 implicit bias training program produced pursuant to subdivision one of
20 this section, or an equivalent approved by the department and the divi-
21 sion of human rights, within one month of appointment to such civil
22 service position. A civil service appointee shall be required to take
23 such training once while actively employed as a civil service appointee.
24 Any prior civil service appointee who leaves civil service employment
25 after the effective date of this section and later returns to any civil
26 service appointed position shall be required to complete the model
27 training program or an equivalent approved by the department and the
28 division of human rights within one month of returning to civil service
29 employment.

30 3. The department may promulgate any regulations necessary for the
31 purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section.

32 4. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the follow-
33 ing meanings:

34 (a) "Equity" means fair and just opportunities and outcomes for all
35 individuals.

36 (b) "Social justice" means every individual deserves to benefit from
37 the same economic, political and social rights and opportunities, free
38 from health disparities, regardless of race; socioeconomic status; age;
39 sex, including on the basis of gender identity or orientation; religion;
40 disability; or other characteristics.

41 (c) "Race" means a social construct that artificially divides people
42 into distinct groups based on characteristics such as physical appear-
43 ance, including color; ancestral heritage; cultural affiliation;
44 cultural history; ethnic classification; and the social, economic and
45 political needs of a society at a given period.

46 (d) "Implicit bias" means the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our
47 understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.

48 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
49 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the department of
50 civil service, in consultation with the division of human rights, is
51 authorized to create the racial equity, social justice, and implicit
52 bias training program required to be created and published pursuant to
53 section 153 of the civil service law as added by section one of this
54 act.