

3359

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

March 17, 2009

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Introduced by Sens. ONORATO, ADDABBO, BRESLIN, SAVINO -- (at request of the Department of Labor) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to unemployment benefits for innocent bystanders during an industrial controversy

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 592 of the labor law, as amended  
2 by chapter 609 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:  
3     1. Industrial controversy. (A) The accumulation of benefit rights by a  
4 claimant shall be suspended during a period of seven consecutive weeks  
5 beginning with the day after such claimant lost his or her employment  
6 because of a strike or other industrial controversy except for lockouts,  
7 including concerted activity not authorized or sanctioned by the recog-  
8 nized or certified bargaining agent of the claimant, and other concerted  
9 activity conducted in violation of any existing collective bargaining  
10 agreement, in the establishment in which he or she was employed, except  
11 that benefit rights may be accumulated before the expiration of such  
12 seven weeks beginning with the day after such strike or other industrial  
13 controversy was terminated[; provided, however, this waiting period  
14 shall not apply upon the hiring of].  
15     (B) BENEFITS SHALL NOT BE SUSPENDED UNDER THIS SECTION IF:  
16     (I) THE EMPLOYER HIRES a permanent replacement worker for the employ-  
17 ee's position [by the employer]. A replacement worker shall be presumed  
18 to be permanent unless the employer certifies in writing that the  
19 employee will be able to return to his or her prior position upon  
20 conclusion of the strike, in the event the strike terminates prior to  
21 the conclusion of the employee's eligibility for benefit rights under  
22 this chapter. In the event the employer does not permit such return  
23 after such certification, the employee shall be entitled to recover  
24 [with interest] any benefits lost as a result of the seven week suspen-

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

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1 sion of benefits, and the department may impose a penalty upon the  
2 employer of up to seven hundred fifty dollars per employee per week of  
3 benefits lost. THE PENALTY COLLECTED SHALL BE PAID INTO THE UNEMPLOY-  
4 MENT INSURANCE CONTROL FUND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION FIVE HUNDRED  
5 FIFTY-TWO-B OF THIS ARTICLE; OR  
6 (II) THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT THE CLAIMANT:  
7 (A) IS NOT EMPLOYED BY AN EMPLOYER THAT IS INVOLVED IN THE INDUSTRIAL  
8 CONTROVERSY THAT CAUSED HIS OR HER UNEMPLOYMENT AND IS NOT PARTICIPATING  
9 IN THE INDUSTRIAL CONTROVERSY; OR  
10 (B) IS NOT IN A BARGAINING UNIT INVOLVED IN THE INDUSTRIAL CONTROVERSY  
11 THAT CAUSED HIS OR HER UNEMPLOYMENT AND IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE  
12 INDUSTRIAL CONTROVERSY.  
13 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to loss of  
14 employment beginning on or after such effective date.