

5923

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

June 18, 2009

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

AN ACT to amend the civil rights law, in relation to providing a civil remedy for victims of bias-related violence or intimidations

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

1     Section 1. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section  
2     79-n to read as follows:  
3     S 79-N. BIAS-RELATED VIOLENCE OR INTIMIDATION; CIVIL REMEDY. 1. THE  
4     FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS ARE APPLICABLE TO THIS SECTION:  
5     (A) THE TERM "DISABILITY" MEANS A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT THAT  
6     SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITS A MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITY.  
7     (B) THE TERM "AGE" MEANS SIXTY YEARS OF AGE OR MORE.  
8     (C) THE TERM "SEXUAL ORIENTATION" MEANS A PERSON'S ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED  
9     HOMOSEXUALITY, HETEROSEXUALITY, OR BISEXUALITY.  
10    (D) THE TERM "GENDER" MEANS A PERSON'S ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED SEX AND  
11    SHALL INCLUDE A PERSON'S GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION.  
12    2. ANY PERSON WHO INTENTIONALLY SELECTS A PERSON OR PROPERTY FOR HARM  
13    OR CAUSES DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY OF ANOTHER OR CAUSES PHYSICAL INJURY OR  
14    DEATH TO ANOTHER IN WHOLE OR IN SUBSTANTIAL PART BECAUSE OF A BELIEF OR  
15    PERCEPTION REGARDING THE RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, GENDER,  
16    RELIGION, RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, AGE, DISABILITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF A  
17    PERSON, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE BELIEF OR PERCEPTION IS CORRECT, SHALL  
18    BE LIABLE, IN A CIVIL ACTION OR PROCEEDING MAINTAINED BY SUCH INDIVIDUAL  
19    OR GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS, FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, DAMAGES, OR ANY OTHER  
20    APPROPRIATE RELIEF IN LAW OR EQUITY. IF IT SHALL APPEAR TO THE SATIS-  
21    FACTION OF THE COURT OR JUSTICE THAT THE RESPONDENT HAS, IN FACT,  
22    VIOLATED THIS SECTION, AN INJUNCTION MAY BE ISSUED BY SUCH COURT OR  
23    JUSTICE, ENJOINING AND RESTRAINING ANY FURTHER VIOLATION, WITHOUT  
24    REQUIRING PROOF THAT ANY PERSON HAS, IN FACT, BEEN INJURED OR DAMAGED  
25    THEREBY.

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

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1       3. WHENEVER THERE SHALL BE A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, AN APPLICATION  
2 MAY BE MADE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW YORK TO A COURT OR JUSTICE HAVING JURISDICTION FOR AN  
4 INJUNCTION TO ENJOIN AND RESTRAIN THE CONTINUANCE OF SUCH ACTIVITY. IN  
5 CONNECTION WITH ANY SUCH APPLICATION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS AUTHORIZED  
6 TO TAKE PROOF AND DETERMINE THE RELEVANT FACTS AND TO ISSUE SUBPOENAS IN  
7 ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES.  
8       4. IN ANY SUCH ACTION OR PROCEEDING, THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY  
9 ALLOW THE PARTY COMMENCING SUCH ACTION OR PROCEEDING, IF SUCH PARTY  
10 PREVAILS, REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES AS PART OF THE COSTS.  
11       S 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
12 have become a law.