## 6130--A

## 2011-2012 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 8, 2011

- Introduced by M. of A. WRIGHT, COLTON, CAHILL, LANCMAN, N. RIVERA, ROSENTHAL, LUPARDO, JAFFEE, BRONSON, P. RIVERA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CUSICK, FARRELL, GOTTFRIED, GUNTHER, JACOBS, LIFTON, MAGNARELLI, PERRY, RAMOS, WEINSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor -- recommitted to the Committee on Labor in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee
- AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to enacting the "New York state fair pay act"

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

Section 1. The labor law is amended by adding a new article 21 to read
 as follows:
 ARTICLE 21
 NEW YORK STATE FAIR PAY ACT
 SECTION 750. SHORT TITLE.

751. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

- 752. DEFINITIONS.
  - 753. PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN WAGES.
- 754. OTHER PROHIBITED ACTS.
  - 755. REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT.
- 756. REGULATIONS.

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12 S 750. SHORT TITLE. THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE 13 "NEW YORK STATE FAIR PAY ACT".

14 S 751. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. (A) THE LEGISLATURE FINDS 15 THE FOLLOWING:

16 (1) DESPITE FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS BANNING DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOY17 MENT AND PAY, IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR, WAGE DIFFERENTIALS
18 PERSIST BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN AND BETWEEN MINORITIES AND NON-MINORITIES
19 IN THE SAME JOBS AND IN JOBS THAT ARE DISSIMILAR BUT THAT REQUIRE EQUIV-

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

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ALENT COMPOSITES OF SKILL, EFFORT, RESPONSIBILITY AND WORKING CONDI-1 2 TIONS; 3 (2) THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH WAGE DIFFERENTIALS--4 (A) DEPRESSES WAGES AND LIVING STANDARDS FOR EMPLOYEES NECESSARY FOR 5 THEIR HEALTH AND EFFICIENCY; 6 (B) REDUCES FAMILY INCOMES AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE HIGHER POVERTY RATES 7 AMONG FEMALE-HEADED AND MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS; (C) PREVENTS THE MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF THE AVAILABLE LABOR RESOURCES; 8 9 (D) TENDS TO CAUSE LABOR DISPUTES, THEREBY BURDENING, AFFECTING, AND 10 OBSTRUCTING COMMERCE; (E) CONSTITUTES AN UNFAIR METHOD OF COMPETITION; AND 11 12 (F) VIOLATES THE STATE'S PUBLIC POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION; (3) DISCRIMINATION IN WAGE-SETTING PRACTICES HAS PLAYED A ROLE IN 13 14 DEPRESSING WAGES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES GENERALLY; 15 (4) MANY INDIVIDUALS WORK IN OCCUPATIONS THAT ARE DOMINATED BY INDI-VIDUALS OF THEIR SAME SEX, RACE, AND/OR NATIONAL ORIGIN, AND DISCRIMI-16 17 NATION IN HIRING, JOB ASSIGNMENT AND PROMOTION HAS PLAYED A ROLE IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING SEGREGATED WORK FORCES; 18 19 ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION IN COMPENSATION BASED ON SEX, RACE AND (5) NATIONAL ORIGIN WOULD HAVE POSITIVE EFFECTS, INCLUDING--20 21 (A) PROVIDING A SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS IN THE ECONOMY CREATED BY DISCRI-22 MINATORY WAGE DIFFERENTIALS; 23 (B) REDUCING THE NUMBER OF WORKING WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR EARNING 24 LOW WAGES, THEREBY LOWERING THEIR INCIDENCE OF POVERTY DURING NORMAL 25 WORKING YEARS AND IN RETIREMENT; AND 26 (C) PROMOTING STABLE FAMILIES BY RAISING FAMILY INCOMES. (B) IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE TO CORRECT AND AS RAPIDLY AS 27 28 TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATORY WAGE PRACTICES BASED ON SEX, PRACTICABLE 29 RACE AND/OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. S 752. DEFINITIONS. (A) THE TERM "EMPLOY" SHALL MEAN TO SUFFER OR 30 31 PERMIT TO WORK. 32 THE TERM "EMPLOYEE" SHALL MEAN ANY PERSON EMPLOYED BY AN EMPLOYER (B) 33 AND INCLUDES ALL OF AN EMPLOYER'S PERMANENT EMPLOYEES, WHETHER WORKING 34 FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME, AND ANY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE EMPLOYED BY AN 35 EMPLOYER FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE MONTHS. "EMPLOYEE" SHALL NOT INCLUDE ANY INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY HIS OR HER PARENTS, SPOUSE OR CHILD. 36 37 (C) THE TERM "EMPLOYER" SHALL MEAN ANY PERSON WHO EMPLOYS FOUR OR MORE 38 PERSONS AND INCLUDES THE STATE AND ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS THEREOF. 39 (D) THE TERM "EQUIVALENT JOBS" MEANS JOBS OR OCCUPATIONS THAT ARE 40 EQUAL WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE EQUAL PAY ACT OF 1963, 29 U.S.C. 206(D), OR JOBS OR OCCUPATIONS THAT ARE DISSIMILAR BUT WHOSE REQUIRE-41 MENTS ARE EQUIVALENT, WHEN VIEWED AS A COMPOSITE OF SKILLS, EFFORT, 42 43 RESPONSIBILITY AND WORKING CONDITIONS. EQUIVALENCY OF SKILL, EFFORT, 44 RESPONSIBILITY AND WORKING CONDITIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY UTILIZING 45 JOB COMPARISON METHODOLOGIES THAT DO NOT IGNORE OR UNDERVALUE THE WORTH OF JOBS WHERE WOMEN AND MINORITIES ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED. 46 47 (E) THE TERM "PERSON" SHALL MEAN ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS, PARTNER-SHIPS, ASSOCIATIONS, CORPORATIONS, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES, LEGAL 48 49 REPRESENTATIVES, TRUSTEES, TRUSTEES IN BANKRUPTCY, RECEIVERS AND THE 50 STATE AND ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND AGENCIES THEREOF. THE TERM "LABOR ORGANIZATION" SHALL MEAN ANY ORGANIZATION THAT 51 (F) EXISTS FOR THE PURPOSE, IN WHOLE OR PART, OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR OF 52 DEALING WITH EMPLOYERS CONCERNING GRIEVANCES, TERMS OF CONDITIONS OF 53 54 EMPLOYMENT, OR OF OTHER MUTUAL AID OR PROTECTION IN CONNECTION WITH 55 EMPLOYMENT.

(G) THE TERM "MARKET RATES" SHALL MEAN THE RATES THAT EMPLOYERS WITHIN 1 A PRESCRIBED GEOGRAPHIC AREA ACTUALLY PAY, OR ARE REPORTED TO 2 PAY FOR 3 SPECIFIC JOBS, AS DETERMINED BY FORMAL OR INFORMAL SURVEYS, WAGE 4 STUDIES, OR OTHER MEANS. 5 TERM "WAGES" AND WAGE "RATES" SHALL INCLUDE ALL COMPENSATION (H) THE 6 IN ANY FORM THAT AN EMPLOYER PROVIDES TO EMPLOYEES IN PAYMENT FOR WORK DONE OR SERVICES RENDERED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BASE PAY, BONUS-7 ES, COMMISSIONS, AWARDS, TIPS, OR VARIOUS FORMS OF NON-MONETARY COMPEN-8 SATION IF PROVIDED IN LIEU OF OR IN ADDITION TO MONETARY COMPENSATION 9 10 AND THAT HAVE ECONOMIC VALUE TO AN EMPLOYEE. S 753. PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN WAGES. (A) IT SHALL BE AN 11 UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE IN VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE FOR AN EMPLOY-12 13 ER TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN EMPLOYEES ON THE BASIS OF SEX, RACE AND/OR 14 NATIONAL ORIGIN BY: 15 (1) PAYING WAGES TO EMPLOYEES AT A RATE LESS THAN THE RATE PAID TO 16 EMPLOYEES OF THE OPPOSITE SEX OR OF A DIFFERENT RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN 17 FOR WORK IN EQUIVALENT JOBS; AND/OR (2) PAYING WAGES TO EMPLOYEES IN A JOB THAT IS DOMINATED BY EMPLOYEES 18 19 OF A PARTICULAR SEX, RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN AT A RATE LESS THAN THE RATE AT WHICH SUCH EMPLOYER PAYS TO EMPLOYEES IN ANOTHER JOB 20 THAT IS 21 DOMINATED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE OPPOSITE SEX OR OF A DIFFERENT RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN, FOR WORK ON EQUIVALENT JOBS. 22 23 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION (A) OF THIS SECTION, 24 IT SHALL NOT BE AN UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE FOR AN EMPLOYER TO PAY 25 DIFFERENT WAGE RATES TO EMPLOYEES, WHERE SUCH PAYMENTS ARE MADE PURSUANT 26 TO: 27 (1) A BONA FIDE SENIORITY OR MERIT SYSTEM; 28 (2) A BONA FIDE SYSTEM THAT MEASURES EARNINGS BY QUANTITY OR QUALITY 29 OF PRODUCTION; (3) A BONA FIDE SYSTEM BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC DIFFERENTIALS; OR 30 31 (4) ANY BONA FIDE FACTOR OTHER THAN SEX, RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN, 32 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH FACTOR DOES NOT RESULT IN DISCRIMINATION 33 BASED ON SEX, RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN AND IS NOT THE RESULT OF VARYING 34 MARKET RATES ATTACHED TO HISTORICALLY UNDERVALUED TRADITIONALLY FEMALE 35 AND/OR MINORITY JOB CLASSIFICATIONS. 36 (C) AN EMPLOYER WHO IS PAYING WAGES IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL 37 NOT, IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, REDUCE THE 38 WAGE OF ANY EMPLOYEE. 39 (D) NO LABOR ORGANIZATION OR ITS AGENTS REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES OF AN 40 EMPLOYER HAVING EMPLOYEES SUBJECT TO ANY PROVISION OF THIS CHAPTER SHALL CAUSE OR ATTEMPT TO CAUSE SUCH AN EMPLOYER TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST 41 AN EMPLOYEE IN VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (A) OF THIS SECTION. 42 43 AN AGREEMENT BY ANY EMPLOYEE TO WORK FOR LESS THAN THE COMPEN-(E) 44 SATION TO WHICH THE EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL NOT BE 45 A BAR TO ANY ACTION TO WHICH THE EMPLOYEE WOULD OTHERWISE BE ENTITLED TO 46 ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE. 47 (F) NOTHING SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO IMPEDE, 48 INFRINGE OR DIMINISH THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS WHICH ACCRUE TO EMPLOYEES 49 THROUGH BONA FIDE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS, OR OTHERWISE DIMIN-50 ISH THE INTEGRITY OF THE EXISTING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RELATIONSHIP. 51 (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS SPECIFYING THE (G) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A JOB IS DOMINATED BY EMPLOYEES OF A 52 PARTICULAR SEX, RACE, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. CRITERIA SHALL INCLUDE, BUT 53 54 NOT BE LIMITED TO, FACTORS SUCH AS WHETHER THE JOB HAS EVER BEEN FORMAL-55 LY CLASSIFIED AS OR TRADITIONALLY CONSIDERED TO BE A "MALE" OR "FEMALE" 56 "WHITE" OR "MINORITY" JOB; WHETHER THERE IS A HISTORY OF DISCRIMI-OR

NATION AGAINST WOMEN AND/OR PEOPLE OF COLOR WITH REGARD TO WAGES,
 ASSIGNMENT OR ACCESS TO JOBS, OR OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOY MENT; AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF THE WORK FORCE IN EQUIVALENT
 JOBS E.G., NUMBERS OR PERCENTAGES OF WOMEN, MEN, WHITE PERSONS AND
 PEOPLE OF COLOR. THE REGULATIONS SHALL NOT INCLUDE A LIST OF JOBS.

6 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS SPECIFYING THE METHOD-7 OLOGY FOR DETERMINING EQUIVALENT SKILL, EFFORT, RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK-8 ING CONDITIONS. ANY METHODOLOGY PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL 9 ENSURE THAT COMPARISON SYSTEMS DO NOT IGNORE OR UNDERVALUE THE WORTH OF 10 JOBS WHERE WOMEN AND MINORITIES ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED.

(3) THE EQUIVALENCE OF JOBS DOMINATED BY EMPLOYEES OF A PARTICULAR SEX, RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN RELATIVE TO JOBS DOMINATED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE OPPOSITE SEX OR OF A DIFFERENT RACE OR ORIGIN WILL BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF A SINGLE JOB COMPARISON SYSTEM THAT DOES NOT SYSTEMATICALLY IGNORE OR UNDERVALUE THE JOB CONTENT OF TRADITIONALLY FEMALE AND MINORITY JOBS.

17 S 754. OTHER PROHIBITED ACTS. IT SHALL BE AN UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRAC-18 TICE IN VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE FOR AN EMPLOYER:

(A) TO TAKE ADVERSE ACTIONS OR OTHERWISE DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY
INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE SUCH INDIVIDUAL HAS OPPOSED ANY ACT OR PRACTICE MADE
UNLAWFUL BY THIS ARTICLE, HAS SOUGHT TO ENFORCE RIGHTS PROTECTED UNDER
THIS ARTICLE, OR HAS TESTIFIED, ASSISTED, OR PARTICIPATED IN ANY MANNER
IN AN INVESTIGATION, HEARING, OR OTHER PROCEEDING TO ENFORCE THIS ARTICLE; OR

(B) TO DISCHARGE OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER DISCRIMINATE AGAINST, COERCE,
INTIMIDATE, THREATEN, OR INTERFERE WITH ANY EMPLOYEE OR ANY OTHER PERSON
BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEE INQUIRED ABOUT, DISCLOSED, COMPARED, OR OTHERWISE
DISCUSSED THE EMPLOYEE'S WAGES OR THE WAGES OF ANY OTHER EMPLOYEE, OR
BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEE EXERCISED, ENJOYED, AIDED, OR ENCOURAGED ANY OTHER
PERSON TO EXERCISE OR ENJOY ANY RIGHT GRANTED OR PROTECTED BY THIS ARTICLE.

32 S 755. REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT. (A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RECEIVE, 33 INVESTIGATE, AND ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS OF THIS 34 ARTICLE.

(2) IN THE EVENT THE DEPARTMENT IS UNABLE TO REACH A VOLUNTARY RESOLUTION OF A COMPLAINT FILED UNDER THIS ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY BRING
AN ACTION IN ANY COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO RECOVER THE EQUITABLE AND MONETARY RELIEF DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

39 (3) ANY SUMS RECOVERED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH
 40 SHALL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO EACH EMPLOYEE AFFECTED BY THE EMPLOYER'S
 41 UNLAWFUL ACTS.

(B) (1) IN ANY ACTION IN WHICH A COURT OR JURY FINDS THAT AN EMPLOYER 42 ENGAGED IN ACTS IN VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE, THE COURT OR JURY 43 HAS 44 SHALL AWARD TO ANY AFFECTED EMPLOYEE OR EMPLOYEES MONETARY RELIEF, 45 INCLUDING BACK PAY IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EMPLOYEE'S ACTUAL EARNINGS AND WHAT THE EMPLOYEE WOULD HAVE EARNED BUT 46 47 THE EMPLOYER'S UNLAWFUL PRACTICES, AND AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT IN FOR 48 COMPENSATORY AND PUNITIVE DAMAGES, AS APPROPRIATE.

(2) IN ANY ACTION IN WHICH A COURT OR JURY FINDS THAT AN EMPLOYER HAS
ENGAGED IN ACTS IN VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE, THE COURT SHALL ENJOIN THE
EMPLOYER FROM CONTINUING TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AFFECTED EMPLOYEES AND
SHALL DIRECT THE EMPLOYER TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE;
AND MAY ORDER THE EMPLOYER TO TAKE SUCH ADDITIONAL AFFIRMATIVE STEPS AS
ARE NECESSARY, INCLUDING REINSTATEMENT OR RECLASSIFICATION OF AFFECTED
WORKERS, TO ENSURE AN END TO UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION.

1 (3) IN ANY ACTION IN WHICH AN AFFECTED EMPLOYEE OR EMPLOYEES PREVAIL 2 IN THEIR CLAIMS AGAINST EMPLOYERS, THE COURT MAY, IN ADDITION TO ANY 3 JUDGMENT AWARDED TO THE PLAINTIFFS, ALLOW A REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEE, 4 REASONABLE EXPERT WITNESS FEES, AND OTHER COSTS OF THE ACTION TO BE PAID 5 BY THE EMPLOYER.

6 (C) AN ACTION TO RECOVER THE DAMAGES OR EQUITABLE RELIEF PRESCRIBED IN
7 SUBDIVISION (B) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE MAINTAINED AGAINST ANY EMPLOYER
8 IN ANY COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION BY ANY ONE OR MORE EMPLOYEES OR
9 THEIR REPRESENTATIVE FOR OR ON BEHALF OF:

10 (1) THE EMPLOYEES; OR

11 (2) THE EMPLOYEES AND OTHER EMPLOYEES SIMILARLY SITUATED.

12 S 756. REGULATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESCRIBE SUCH REGULATIONS AS 13 ARE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

14 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after 15 it shall have become a law.