S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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I N A S S E M B L Y

January 13, 2012

Introduced by M. of A. JAFFEE, PERRY, GIBSON, CASTRO, RA, SCARBOROUGH, ORTIZ, LIFTON, P. RIVERA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABINANTI, COLTON, CROUCH, LANCMAN, MARKEY, McENENY, NOLAN, TITONE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to workforce training for women

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that women are increasingly responsible for the economic security of their families although more than a quarter of women-headed households in New York live below the poverty level. Working women earn 80% of what men earn and jobs traditionally held by women pay significantly less than jobs predominantly employing men. Workforce training programs have the potential to narrow the wage gap through training for, and referral to, jobs that have higher earning potential. Many higher paying jobs are traditionally dominated by men but could provide opportunities for women. It is the goal of the legislature that workforce training programs in New York assist women job seekers with information and services that will help increase their earnings by encouraging them to seek higher paying jobs and careers.

S 2. The labor law is amended by adding a new section 10-c to read as follows:

S 10-C. WORKFORCE TRAINING FOR WOMEN POLICY. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE TRAINING BOARDS, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF, AND PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND TRAINING FOR WOMEN TO QUALIFY FOR HIGHER PAYING JOBS AND CAREERS. SUCH GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE SHALL PROMOTE PROGRAM SERVICES FOR WOMEN JOB SEEKERS THAT PROVIDE:

(A) CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT COMPENSATION FOR JOBS AND CAREERS THAT OFFER HIGH EARNING POTENTIAL INCLUDING JOBS THAT TRADITIONALLY EMPLOY PREDOMINANTLY MEN;

(B) SERVICES SUCH AS COUNSELING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING THAT ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN SUCH JOBS; AND

(C) REFERRALS TO EMPLOYERS OFFERING SUCH JOBS.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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