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

6429--A

Cal. No. 635

I N S E N A T E

February 8, 2012

Introduced by Sens. ROBACH, AVELLA, GRIFFO, GRISANTI, LARKIN, MARTINS, MAZIARZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Labor -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to workforce guidance and information 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 GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION FOR WOMEN POLICY. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS AND STAFF, TO ENABLE THEM TO BETTER EDUCATE AND INFORM BOTH WOMEN AND MEN ABOUT HIGHER PAYING JOBS AND CAREERS INCLUDING JOBS TRADITIONALLY DOMINATED BY MEN. SUCH GUIDANCE SHALL PROMOTE PROGRAM SERVICES FOR JOB SEEKERS THAT PROVIDE:

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

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

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(B) COUNSELING, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING THAT ENCOURAGE BOTH WOMEN AND MEN TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN SUCH JOBS;
(C) REFERRALS TO EMPLOYERS OFFERING SUCH JOBS; AND
(D) CURRENT LOCAL LABOR MARKET INFORMATION REGARDING THE GENDER WAGE GAP AND SPECIFIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY RATES FOR FAMILIES LIVING AND WORKING IN THAT LOCAL LABOR MARKET.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.