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I N   S E N A T E

February 8, 2012

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Introduced by Sen. ROBACH -- 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 workforce training for women

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

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

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

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

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

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

27    (C) REFERRALS TO EMPLOYERS OFFERING SUCH JOBS.

28    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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