

2898

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 20, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to providing for the implementation of domestic violence employee awareness and assistance policies by employers and providing a disability benefits insurance premium credit for the implementation thereof

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

1     Section 1. The workers' compensation law is amended by adding a new  
2     section 210-a to read as follows:  
3     S 210-A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE POLICY;  
4     CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIALISTS. 1.  
5     EMPLOYERS INSURED THROUGH THE STATE FUND OR ANY OTHER INSURER THAT  
6     ISSUES POLICIES PROVIDING DISABILITY BENEFITS PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE,  
7     SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A CREDIT IN DISABILITY BENEFITS PREMIUMS IF THEY  
8     IMPLEMENT A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE POLICY  
9     THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC  
10    VIOLENCE, RECOMMENDED BY A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIALIST  
11    AND CERTIFIED BY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY PANEL ESTAB-  
12    LISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE CREDIT, WHICH SHALL BE FIVE PERCENT  
13    OF THE DISABILITY BENEFITS INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A  
14    DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE POLICY, SHALL BE  
15    PROVIDED TO THE EMPLOYER AT THE END OF THE POLICY YEAR. THE CREDIT SHALL  
16    BE AVAILABLE FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, PROVIDED THAT SUCH A POLICY  
17    SHALL HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS DURING THE FIRST  
18    YEAR FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS SOUGHT, AND THAT THE POLICY SHALL HAVE BEEN  
19    IMPLEMENTED FOR A FULL TWELVE MONTHS DURING THE SECOND YEAR FOR WHICH  
20    THE CREDIT IS SOUGHT.  
21    2. A SELF-INSURED EMPLOYER SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REDUCTION IN THE  
22    SECURITY DEPOSIT PROVIDED FOR IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION TWO  
23    HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE IF SUCH EMPLOYER HAS IMPLEMENTED A DOMES-

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

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1 TIC VIOLENCE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE POLICY THAT HAS BEEN  
2 ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
3 RECOMMENDED BY A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIALIST AND  
4 CERTIFIED BY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY PANEL ESTABLISHED  
5 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE AMOUNT OF THE REDUCTION IN THE REQUIRED  
6 SECURITY DEPOSIT SHALL BE NO GREATER THAN FIVE PERCENT FOR THE IMPLEMEN-  
7 TATION OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE POLICY,  
8 OR SUCH AMOUNT AS DETERMINED BY THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD TO BE NECESSARY  
9 TO ASSURE THAT THE DEPOSIT REMAIN SUFFICIENT TO SECURE THE EMPLOYER'S  
10 LIABILITY TO PAY THE BENEFITS REQUIRED BY THIS ARTICLE. THE REDUCTION  
11 SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, PROVIDED THAT SUCH POLICY  
12 SHALL HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS DURING THE FIRST  
13 YEAR FOR WHICH THE REDUCTION IS SOUGHT, AND THAT SUCH POLICY SHALL HAVE  
14 BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS DURING THE FIRST YEAR FOR  
15 WHICH THE REDUCTION IS SOUGHT, AND THAT SUCH POLICY SHALL HAVE BEEN  
16 IMPLEMENTED FOR A FULL TWELVE MONTHS DURING THE SECOND YEAR FOR WHICH  
17 THE REDUCTION IS SOUGHT.

18 3. A. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY  
19 PANEL WHICH SHALL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO: (I) RECEIVE AND REVIEW  
20 APPLICATIONS FROM APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATION AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
21 WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIALISTS, (II) CERTIFY PERSONS AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
22 WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIALISTS, AND (III) REVOKE CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC  
23 VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIALISTS FOR JUST CAUSE.

24 B. THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY PANEL SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE  
25 VOTING MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE, THE CHAIR OF  
26 THE BOARD, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
27 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OR THEIR DESIGNEES, AND TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE  
28 GOVERNOR. THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: ONE  
29 SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY APPOINTED UPON THE  
30 RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF NEW YORK STATE, INCORPORATED  
31 AND ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF ORGANIZED LABOR UPON THE RECOMMEN-  
32 DATION OF THE STATE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR-CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL  
33 ORGANIZATIONS. SUCH APPOINTED MEMBERS SHALL SERVE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS  
34 ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR, OR HIS OR HER  
35 DESIGNEE, SHALL SERVE AS AN EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBER OF THE DOMESTIC  
36 VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY PANEL.

37 C. THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY PANEL SHALL MEET AT LEAST  
38 QUARTERLY. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
39 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE PANEL. THE MEMBERS OF SUCH  
40 PANEL SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION, EXCEPT THAT THEY SHALL BE  
41 ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE  
42 OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

43 4. THE BOARD SHALL MONITOR ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS  
44 AND ASSISTANCE POLICIES IMPLEMENTED BY EMPLOYERS. AS PART OF THIS  
45 RESPONSIBILITY, THE BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES ARE  
46 INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH POLICIES THROUGH MEETINGS AND  
47 DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RESPECTIVE CERTIFIED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE  
48 POLICY SPECIALISTS.

49 5. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY  
50 PANEL, THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS  
51 FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIALISTS.  
52 SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE PROVISIONS THAT OUTLINE THE  
53 MINIMUM QUALIFICATION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIAL-  
54 ISTS, PROCEDURES FOR CERTIFICATION, CAUSES FOR REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION  
55 OF CERTIFICATION AND APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW  
56 PROCEDURES, VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES FOR MISUSE OF CERTIFICATION BY

1 CERTIFIED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKPLACE POLICY SPECIALISTS, AND FEES FOR  
2 CERTIFICATES AND CERTIFICATE RENEWALS.

3 S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
4 ing the date on which it shall have become a law, except that subdivi-  
5 sions 3 and 5 of section 210-a of the workers' compensation law, as  
6 added by section one of this act, shall take effect immediately.