

1549

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 12, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to unlawful hiring  
discrimination by employers, employment agencies and licensing agen-  
cies based upon an individual's unemployment status

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

1     Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 296-d  
2     to read as follows:  
3     S 296-D. UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN RELATION TO LICENSING OR  
4     EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES; UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS. 1. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
5     SECTION, THE TERM "UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS" SHALL MEAN BEING UNEMPLOYED,  
6     HAVING ACTIVELY LOOKED FOR EMPLOYMENT DURING THE THEN MOST RECENT FOUR  
7     WEEK PERIOD, AND CURRENTLY BEING AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT.  
8     2. IT SHALL BE AN UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE FOR AN EMPLOYER OR  
9     LICENSING AGENCY, BECAUSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS, TO  
10    REFUSE TO HIRE OR TO EMPLOY OR TO BAR SUCH INDIVIDUAL OR TO DISCRIMINATE  
11    AGAINST SUCH INDIVIDUAL IN COMPENSATION OR IN TERMS, CONDITIONS OR PRIV-  
12    ILEGES OF EMPLOYMENT.  
13    3. IT SHALL BE AN UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE FOR AN EMPLOYER OR  
14    AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE OF  
15    UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS IN RECEIVING, CLASSIFYING, DISPOSING OR OTHERWISE  
16    ACTING UPON APPLICATIONS FOR ITS SERVICES OR IN REFERRING AN APPLICANT  
17    OR APPLICANTS TO AN EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYERS.  
18    4. IT SHALL BE AN UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE FOR AN EMPLOYER OR  
19    AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY TO PRINT OR CIRCULATE OR CAUSE TO BE PRINTED OR  
20    CIRCULATED ANY STATEMENT, ADVERTISEMENT OR PUBLICATION, OR TO USE ANY  
21    FORM OF APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OR TO MAKE ANY INQUIRY IN CONNECTION  
22    WITH PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYMENT, WHICH EXPRESSES DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ANY  
23    LIMITATION, SPECIFICATION OR DISCRIMINATION AS TO UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS,  
24    OR ANY INTENT TO MAKE ANY SUCH LIMITATION, SPECIFICATION OR DISCRIMI-

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

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1 NATION, UNLESS BASED UPON A BONA FIDE OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATION;  
2 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NEITHER THIS SECTION NOR ANY PROVISION OF THIS  
3 CHAPTER OR OTHER LAW SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4 CIVIL SERVICE OR THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL OF ANY CITY CONTAINING MORE  
5 THAN ONE COUNTY FROM REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM APPLICANTS FOR CIVIL  
6 SERVICE EXAMINATIONS CONCERNING THE AFOREMENTIONED CHARACTERISTIC, OTHER  
7 THAN SEXUAL ORIENTATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING STUDIES TO IDEN-  
8 TIFY AND RESOLVE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IN RECRUITMENT AND TESTING OF MEMBERS  
9 OF MINORITY GROUPS TO ENSURE THE FAIREST POSSIBLE AND EQUAL OPPORTU-  
10 NITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE FOR ALL PERSONS.

11 5. ANY EMPLOYER, EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, OR LICENSING AGENCY WHO VIOLATES  
12 THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO  
13 EXCEED FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION AND TEN THOUSAND  
14 DOLLARS FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION.

15 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.