

5103

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 12, 2015

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

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to providing an exemption from coverage under certain circumstances

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 126 to read as follows:

3 S 126. EXEMPTION FROM COVERAGE. 1. AN EMPLOYER MAY FILE AN APPLICATION
4 WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER
5 WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES. THE APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE A WRIT-
6 TEN WAIVER BY THE EMPLOYEE OF ALL BENEFITS UNDER THIS CHAPTER AND AN
7 AFFIDAVIT BY THE EMPLOYEE THAT HE OR SHE IS A MEMBER OF A RECOGNIZED
8 RELIGIOUS SECT WHICH EMBRACES A LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT OF NON-INVOLVE-
9 MENT IN THE MATTERS OF ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTAL PRACTICES. THEREFORE, HE
10 OR SHE IS CONSCIENTIOUSLY OPPOSED TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE BENEFITS OF ANY
11 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INSURANCE WHICH MAKES PAYMENTS IN THE EVENT OF DEATH,
12 DISABILITY, OLD AGE OR RETIREMENT OR MAKES PAYMENTS TOWARD THE COST OF,
13 OR PROVIDES SERVICES FOR MEDICAL BILLS (INCLUDING THE BENEFITS OF ANY
14 INSURANCE SYSTEM ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY ACT 42
15 U.S.C. 301 ET SEQ.).

16 2. THE WAIVER AND AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS
17 SECTION SHALL BE MADE UPON A FORM TO BE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

18 3. SUCH APPLICATION SHALL BE GRANTED IF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FIND
19 THAT: (A) THE EMPLOYEE IS A MEMBER OF A SECT OR DIVISION HAVING THE
20 ESTABLISHED TENETS OR TEACHINGS REFERRED TO IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS
21 SECTION; AND (B) IT IS THE PRACTICE, AND HAS BEEN FOR A SUBSTANTIAL
22 NUMBER OF YEARS, FOR MEMBERS OF SUCH SECT OR DIVISION THEREOF TO MAKE
23 PROVISION FOR THEIR DEPENDENT MEMBERS WHICH IN ITS JUDGMENT IS REASON-
24 ABLE IN VIEW OF THEIR GENERAL LEVEL OF LIVING. RECEIPT OF A FORM

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

LBD06025-01-5

1 REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED PRIMA
2 FACIE PROOF THAT THIS SUBDIVISION HAS BEEN COMPLIED WITH.

3 4. WHEN AN EMPLOYEE IS A MINOR, THE WAIVER AND AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED BY
4 SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION MAY BE MADE BY THE GUARDIAN OF THE
5 MINOR.

6 5. AN EXCEPTION GRANTED IN REGARD TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE SHALL BE
7 VALID FOR ALL FUTURE YEARS UNLESS SUCH EMPLOYEE OR SECT CEASES TO MEET
8 THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION.

9 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.