

STATE OF NEW YORK

566--A

Cal. No. 88

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. JAFFEE, DINOWITZ, COOK, GALEF, GOTTFRIED, CAHILL, FAHY, TITUS, MOSLEY, ZEBROWSKI, PICHARDO, SIMON, STECK, BRINDISI, MAYER, SIMOTAS, ARROYO, JOYNER, AUBRY, SEAWRIGHT, ABINANTI, SKOUFIS, PAULIN, ROSENTHAL, HUNTER, HARRIS, BICHOTTE, JEAN-PIERRE, HYNDMAN, DE LA ROSA, BLAKE, D'URSO, CARROLL, BRONSON -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BARRON, BRAUNSTEIN, BUCHWALD, CROUCH, DAVILA, GLICK, HOOPER, LUPARDO, MAGEE, PERRY, RIVERA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes -- advanced to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to discrimination based on an employee's or a dependent's reproductive health decision making

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The labor law is amended by adding a new section 203-e to
2 read as follows:

3 § 203-e. Prohibition of discrimination based on an employee's or a
4 dependent's reproductive health decision making. 1. An employer shall be
5 prohibited from accessing an employee's personal information regarding
6 the employee's or the employee's dependent's reproductive health deci-
7 sion making, including but not limited to, the decision to use or access
8 a particular drug, device or medical service without the employee's
9 prior informed affirmative written consent.

10 2. An employer shall not:

11 (a) discriminate nor take any retaliatory personnel action against an
12 employee with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges
13 of employment because of or on the basis of the employee's or depen-
14 dent's reproductive health decision making, including, but not limited
15 to, a decision to use or access a particular drug, device or medical
16 service; or

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

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1 (b) require an employee to sign a waiver or other document which
2 purports to deny an employee the right to make their own reproductive
3 health care decisions, including use of a particular drug, device, or
4 medical service.

5 3. An employer that provides an employee handbook to its employees
6 must include in the handbook notice of employee rights and remedies
7 under this section.

8 4. An employee may bring a civil action in any court of competent
9 jurisdiction against an employer alleged to have violated the provisions
10 of this section. In any civil action alleging a violation of this
11 section, the court may:

12 (a) award damages, including, but not limited to, back pay, benefits
13 and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred to a prevailing plain-
14 tiff;

15 (b) afford injunctive relief against any employer that commits or
16 proposes to commit a violation of the provisions of this section;

17 (c) order reinstatement; and/or

18 (d) award liquidated damages equal to one hundred percent of the award
19 for damages pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision unless an
20 employer proves a good faith basis to believe that its actions in
21 violation of this section were in compliance with the law.

22 5. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any rights of
23 an employee provided through any other provision of law, common law or
24 collective bargaining unit.

25 6. Any act of retaliation for an employee exercising any rights grant-
26 ed under this section shall subject an employer to separate civil penal-
27 ties under this section. For the purposes of this section, retaliation
28 or retaliatory personnel action shall mean discharging, suspending,
29 demoting, or otherwise penalizing an employee for:

30 (a) making or threatening to make, a complaint to an employer,
31 co-worker, or to a public body, that rights guaranteed under this
32 section have been violated;

33 (b) causing to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this
34 section; or

35 (c) providing information to, or testifying before, any public body
36 conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any such violation
37 of a law, rule, or regulation by such employer.

38 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.