

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7848--A

## IN SENATE

March 4, 2018

Introduced by Sens. YOUNG, PHILLIPS, MURPHY, AKSHAR, BONACIC, FLANAGAN, FUNKE, GALLIVAN, GOLDEN, GRIFFO, HANNON, HELMING, JACOBS, LANZA, LARKIN, LAVALLE, LITTLE, MARCELLINO, MARCHIONE, O'MARA, RANZENHOFER, RITCHIE, ROBACH, SEWARD, TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommit-  
ted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to prevention of sexual harassment by state contractors (Part A); to amend the general business law, in relation to mandatory arbitration clauses (Part B); to amend the executive law and the public officers law, in relation to individual liability for sexual harassment (Part C); to amend the the civil practice law and rules and the general municipal law, in relation to the entering of confidential settlements (Part D); to amend the public officers law and the executive law, in relation to sexual harassment violations and establishing a unit to receive and investigate such claims (Part E); to amend the executive law, the legislative law, the judiciary law, the general municipal law and the public authorities law, in relation to uniform standards for sexual harassment policies for all branches of state and local governments (Part F); and to amend the labor law, in relation to the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace (Part G)

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

1 Section 1. This act enacts into law major components of legislation  
2 which are necessary to combat sexual harassment in the workplace. Each  
3 component is wholly contained within a Part identified as Parts A  
4 through G. The effective date for each particular provision contained  
5 within such Part is set forth in the last section of such Part. Any  
6 provision in any section contained within a Part, including the effec-  
7 tive date of the Part, which makes reference to a section "of this act",  
8 when used in connection with that particular component, shall be deemed  
9 to mean and refer to the corresponding section of the Part in which it

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

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1 is found. Section three of this act sets forth the general effective  
2 date of this act.

3 PART A

4 Section 1. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section  
5 148 to read as follows:

6 § 148. Prevention of sexual harassment by state contractors. 1. Defi-  
7 nitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the  
8 following meanings unless otherwise specified:

9 a. "State agency" means (1) (a) any state department, office, bureau,  
10 division, committee, council, or (b) any division, board, office,  
11 committee, council, commission or bureau of any state department, or (c)  
12 the state university of New York and the city university of New York,  
13 including all their constituent units except community colleges and the  
14 independent institutions operating statutory or contract colleges on  
15 behalf of the state, or (d) a board or commission, a majority of whose  
16 members are appointed by the governor; and (2) a "state authority", as  
17 defined in subdivision one of section two of the public authorities law.

18 b. "Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for  
19 sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature if  
20 such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition  
21 of employment, or submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as  
22 the basis for employment decisions affecting an individual's employment,  
23 or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering  
24 with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating,  
25 hostile or offensive work environment.

26 c. "Contract" means any contract or other agreement for "government  
27 procurement" as such term is defined in subdivision (e) of section one  
28 hundred thirty-nine-k of the state finance law, including an amendment,  
29 extension, renewal, or change order to an existing contract (other than  
30 amendments, extensions, renewals, or change orders that are authorized  
31 and payable under the terms of the contract as it was finally awarded or  
32 approved by the comptroller, as applicable), for an article of procure-  
33 ment. Grants, article eleven-B contracts, program contracts between  
34 not-for-profit organizations, as defined in article eleven-B of the  
35 state finance law, and the unified court system, intergovernmental  
36 agreements, railroad and utility force accounts, utility relocation  
37 project agreements or orders, contracts governing organ transplants,  
38 contracts allowing for state participation in a trade show, and eminent  
39 domain transactions shall not be deemed contracts.

40 2. Every state contractor to whom any contract shall be let shall have  
41 in place an anti-sexual harassment policy consistent with current state  
42 and federal statutory provisions. Such sexual harassment policy shall be  
43 widely distributed and made available to every employee and included in  
44 every new employee orientation.

45 3. Every state contractor to whom a contract is let shall conduct  
46 appropriate yearly anti-sexual harassment training. Such training shall  
47 be no less than two hours in length and interactive and shall (i) define  
48 sexual harassment; (ii) provide examples of conduct that would be  
49 defined as unlawful sexual harassment; (iii) include but not be limited  
50 to information concerning the federal and state statutory provisions  
51 concerning sexual harassment and remedies available to victims of sexual  
52 harassment; and (iv) inform employees of their rights of redress and the  
53 availability and forms of complaint resolution assistance.

1 4. A clause shall be inserted in all contracts hereafter made or  
2 awarded by the state, or by any state agency, requiring a contractor to  
3 whom any contract shall be let, granted or awarded, as required by law,  
4 to certify to the office of general services not later than June thirti-  
5 eth of each year during the term of the contract that (i) such contrac-  
6 tor has adopted an anti-sexual harassment policy; (ii) such policy has  
7 been delivered to each new employee; (iii) such policy has been widely  
8 distributed and made available to all employees; and (iv) anti-sexual  
9 harassment training has been conducted.

10 5. If any contractor fails to certify pursuant to subdivision four of  
11 this section, such contractor shall have sixty days to cure such defect.  
12 If after sixty days the defect has not been cured, the contractor shall  
13 be prohibited from obtaining any additional state government contracts  
14 until the defect is cured. The office of general services shall prepare  
15 and deliver to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and  
16 the speaker of the assembly an annual report in September of each year  
17 which identifies the number of contractors who, as of September of each  
18 year have failed to comply with subdivision four of this section and are  
19 prohibited from obtaining any additional state government contracts.

20 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
21 it shall have become a law.

22 PART B

23 Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section  
24 398-f to read as follows:

25 § 398-f. Mandatory arbitration clauses; prohibited. 1. Definitions. As  
26 used in this section:

27 a. The term "employer" shall have the same meaning as provided in  
28 subdivision five of section two hundred ninety-two of the executive law.

29 b. The term "sexual harassment" shall have the same meaning as  
30 provided in subdivision thirty-five of section two hundred ninety-two of  
31 the executive law.

32 c. The term "prohibited clause" shall mean any clause or provision in  
33 any contract which requires as a condition of the enforcement of the  
34 contract or obtaining remedies under the contract that the parties  
35 submit to mandatory arbitration to resolve any allegation or claim of an  
36 unlawful discriminatory practice of sexual harassment.

37 d. The term "mandatory arbitration clause" shall mean a term or  
38 provision contained in a written contract which requires the parties to  
39 such contract to submit any matter thereafter arising under such  
40 contract to arbitration prior to the commencement of any legal action to  
41 enforce the provisions of such contract and which also further provides  
42 language to the effect that the facts found or determination made of the  
43 arbitrator or panel of arbitrators in its application to a party alleg-  
44 ing an unlawful discriminatory practice based on sexual harassment shall  
45 be final and not subject to independent court review.

46 e. The term "arbitration" shall mean the use of a decision making  
47 forum conducted by an arbitrator or panel of arbitrators within the  
48 meaning and subject to the provisions of article seventy-five of the  
49 civil practice law and rules.

50 2. a. Prohibition. No written contract, entered into on or after the  
51 effective date of this section shall contain a prohibited clause as  
52 defined in paragraph c of subdivision one of this section.

53 b. Exceptions. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to  
54 impair or prohibit an employer from incorporating a non-prohibited

1 clause or other mandatory arbitration provision within such contract,  
2 that the parties agree upon.

3 c. Mandatory arbitration clause null and void. The provisions of such  
4 a mandatory arbitration clause shall be null and void. The inclusion of  
5 such clause in a written contract shall not serve to impair the enforce-  
6 ability of any other provision of such contract.

7 3. Where there is a conflict between any collective bargaining agree-  
8 ment and this section, such agreement shall be controlling.

9 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
10 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.

11 PART C

12 Section 1. Section 292 of the executive law is amended by adding a new  
13 subdivision 35 to read as follows:

14 35. The term "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances,  
15 requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a  
16 sexual nature if such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a  
17 term or condition of employment, or submission to or rejection of such  
18 conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting an indi-  
19 vidual's employment, or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unrea-  
20 sonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an  
21 intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, even if the  
22 complaining individual is not the intended target of the sexual harass-  
23 ment.

24 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 296-d to  
25 read as follows:

26 § 296-d. Sexual harassment relating to non-employees. 1. An employer  
27 may be held liable for the acts of non-employees, with respect to "sexu-  
28 al harassment" as such term is defined in subdivision thirty-five of  
29 section two hundred ninety-two of this article when the employer, its  
30 agents or supervisors knew or should have known that its contractor,  
31 vendor, consultant or other person providing services pursuant to a  
32 contract in the workplace or employees of such contractor, vendor,  
33 consultant or other person providing services pursuant to a contract in  
34 the workplace was subjected to "sexual harassment" as such term is  
35 defined in subdivision thirty-five of section two hundred ninety-two of  
36 this article by an employee and the employer fails to take immediate and  
37 appropriate corrective action. In reviewing cases involving the acts of  
38 non-employees, the extent of the employer's control and any other legal  
39 responsibility which the employer may have with respect to the conduct  
40 of those non-employees shall be considered.

41 2. Employers shall take all reasonable steps to prevent sexual harass-  
42 ment from occurring.

43 § 3. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 656 to read  
44 as follows:

45 § 656. Individual liability for sexual harassment. a. For the purposes  
46 of this section, "sexual harassment" shall include unwelcome sexual  
47 advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical  
48 conduct of a sexual nature when: (i) submission to such conduct is made  
49 either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's  
50 employment; (ii) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an indi-  
51 vidual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such  
52 individual; or (iii) such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfer-  
53 ing with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating,  
54 hostile, or offensive working environment.

1 b. The office of employee relations shall review each proposed agreed  
2 judgment, stipulation, decree, agreement to settle, assurance of discon-  
3 tinuance or other agreement to resolve any internal complaint, complaint  
4 to the United States equal employment opportunity commission or New York  
5 division of human rights, or other complaint filed by an employee of a  
6 "state agency" as such term is defined by section one hundred forty-  
7 eight of the state finance law, that has not been filed in state or  
8 federal court, if the act or omission from which such complaint arose  
9 involved sexual harassment. The office of employee relations shall not  
10 approve such agreement to the extent such agreement includes a proposal  
11 for the state to indemnify and save harmless an employee for the employ-  
12 ee's individual liability with respect to any portion of the judgement,  
13 stipulation, decree, agreement to settle, assurance of discontinuance or  
14 other agreement that is based upon an allegation of sexual harassment.

15 § 4. Section 17 of the public officers law is amended by adding a new  
16 subdivision 12 to read as follows:

17 12. (a) For the purposes of this section, "sexual harassment" shall  
18 include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other  
19 verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (i) submission to  
20 such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term of condition  
21 of an individual's employment; (ii) submission to or rejection of such  
22 conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions  
23 affecting such individual; or (iii) such conduct has the purpose or  
24 effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating  
25 an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

26 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this article or law, the state  
27 shall not indemnify and save harmless an employee in the amount of any  
28 final judgment obtained against such employee in any state or federal  
29 court, or in the amount of any settlement of a claim, of such employee  
30 or officer's intentional wrongdoing where there is a finding or admis-  
31 sion of sexual harassment in any legal proceeding, subject to a proceed-  
32 ing before a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing shall prohibit the  
33 provisional indemnification for the purpose of an award to the damaged  
34 party.

35 § 5. Section 17 of the public officers law is amended by adding a new  
36 subdivision 13 to read as follows:

37 13. Any payment to any complainant shall be subject to the state  
38 receiving in writing an executed document providing the state with all  
39 subrogation rights of the claimant to costs or damages from any respon-  
40 sible party. The state shall at a minimum within thirty days commence an  
41 immediate separate summary action or proceeding against the appropriate  
42 party to recoup such public monies expended.

43 § 6. Subdivision 3 of section 17 of the public officers law is amended  
44 by adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:

45 (e) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for any claim or  
46 cause of action, whether arising under common law, equity, or any  
47 provision of law, the factual foundation for which involves sexual  
48 harassment as such term is defined in subdivision thirty-five of section  
49 two hundred ninety-two of the executive law, in resolving, by agreed  
50 judgment, stipulation, decree, agreement to settle, assurance of discon-  
51 tinuance or otherwise, no state agency or employee acting in their offi-  
52 cial capacity shall have the authority to include or agree to include in  
53 such resolution any term or condition that would prevent the disclosure  
54 of any or all factual information related to the action unless the  
55 condition of confidentiality is the complainant's preference. Any such  
56 condition must be provided to the complainant, who shall have twenty-one

1 days to consider the condition. If after twenty-one days, such condi-  
2 tion is the complainant's preference, such preference shall be memorial-  
3 ized in an agreement signed by the complainant.

4 § 7. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 4 of section 18 of the public offi-  
5 cers law is relettered paragraph (e) and a new paragraph (d) is added to  
6 read as follows:

7 (d)(i) For the purposes of this section, "sexual harassment" shall  
8 include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other  
9 verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (A) submission to  
10 such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition  
11 of an individual's employment; (B) submission to or rejection of such  
12 conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions  
13 affecting such individual; or (C) such conduct has the purpose or effect  
14 of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an  
15 intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

16 (ii) No public entity shall indemnify or save harmless an employee  
17 with respect to the amount of any final judgment obtained against such  
18 employee in any state or federal court, or in the amount of any settle-  
19 ment of a claim, of such employee or officer's intentional wrongdoing  
20 where there is a finding or admission of sexual harassment in any legal  
21 proceeding, subject to a proceeding before a court of competent juris-  
22 isdiction. Nothing shall prohibit the provisional indemnification for the  
23 purpose of an award to the damaged party.

24 (iii) Any payment to any complainant shall be subject to the public  
25 entity receiving in writing an executed document providing the public  
26 entity with all subrogation rights of the claimant to costs or damages  
27 from any responsible party. The public entity shall at a minimum within  
28 thirty days commence an immediate separate summary action or proceeding  
29 against the appropriate party to recoup such public monies expended.

30 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

31 PART D

32 Section 1. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new  
33 section 5003-b to read as follows:

34 § 5003-b. Actions for sexual harassment. With respect to all actions  
35 to recover damages for sexual harassment, as defined in section three  
36 hundred ninety-eight-f of the general business law, no court shall  
37 accept any settlement, including any confidentiality agreement or  
38 provision that would prevent the disclosure of any or all factual infor-  
39 mation related to the action unless the condition of confidentiality is  
40 the complainant's preference and the court has considered the potential  
41 impact on the public and finds that the complainant's preference is not  
42 a result of intimidation, coercion, retaliation, or threats directed at  
43 the complainant. Any such condition must be provided in writing to the  
44 complainant and to the court for consideration. If the court determines  
45 that any or all of the factual information related to the action shall  
46 not be disclosed, the preference shall be memorialized in an agreement  
47 signed by the complainant. Provided, however, subject to the provisions  
48 of the domestic relations law, a settlement agreement may include a  
49 confidentiality provision only if such provision is approved by the  
50 court for good cause in an open proceeding.

51 § 2. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 70-b  
52 to read as follows:

53 § 70-b. Confidential settlements. a. For the purposes of this section,  
54 sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexu-

1 al favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:  
2 (i) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a  
3 term or condition of an individual's employment; (ii) submission to or  
4 rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for  
5 employment decisions affecting such individual; or (iii) such conduct  
6 has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's work  
7 performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working  
8 environment.

9 b. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for any claim or  
10 cause of action, whether filed or unfiled, actual or potential, and  
11 whether arising under common law, equity, or any provision of law, the  
12 factual foundation for which involves sexual harassment, in resolving,  
13 by agreed judgment, stipulation, decree, agreement to settle, assurance  
14 of discontinuance or otherwise, every county, city, town, village,  
15 school district and other political subdivision, official or employee  
16 acting in their official capacity shall not have the authority to  
17 include or agree to include in such resolution any term or condition  
18 that would prevent the disclosure of any or all factual information  
19 related to the action unless the condition of confidentiality is the  
20 complainant's preference. Any such condition must be provided to the  
21 complainant, who shall have twenty-one days to consider the condition.  
22 If after twenty-one days, such condition is the complainant's prefer-  
23 ence, such preference shall be memorialized in an agreement signed by  
24 the complainant.

25 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

26 PART E

27 Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 74 of the public officers law is  
28 amended by adding a new paragraph j to read as follows:

29 j. No officer or employee of a state agency, member of the legislature  
30 or legislative employee shall commit an act of sexual harassment while  
31 servng in his or her official capacity. For the purposes of this  
32 section, "sexual harassment" shall include unwelcome sexual advances,  
33 requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a  
34 sexual nature when submission to such conduct is made either explicitly  
35 or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,  
36 submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as  
37 the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual or such  
38 conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's  
39 work performance or creating an intimidating, hostel, or offensive work-  
40 ing environment.

41 § 2. Subdivision 4 of section 74 of the public officers law, as  
42 amended by chapter 14 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as  
43 follows:

44 4. a. Violations. In addition to any penalty contained in any other  
45 provision of law any such officer, member or employee who shall knowng-  
46 ly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this section may  
47 be fined, suspended or removed from office or employment in the manner  
48 provided by law. Any such individual who knowingly and intentionally  
49 violates the provisions of paragraph b, c, d or i of subdivision three  
50 of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to  
51 exceed ten thousand dollars and the value of any gift, compensation or  
52 benefit received as a result of such violation. Any such individual who  
53 knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of paragraph a, e or  
54 g of subdivision three of this section shall be subject to a civil

1 penalty in an amount not to exceed the value of any gift, compensation  
2 or benefit received as a result of such violation.

3 b. Sexual harassment violations. In addition to any penalty contained  
4 in any other provision of law any such officer, member or employee who  
5 shall violate the provisions of paragraph j of subdivision three of this  
6 section shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to ten thousand  
7 dollars, and may be subject to proceedings for suspension or removal  
8 from office or employment by the appropriate administrative action,  
9 which shall conform to any applicable collective bargaining agreement or  
10 law.

11 § 3. Subdivision 9 of section 94 of the executive law is amended by  
12 adding a new paragraph (o) to read as follows:

13 (o) Establish a unit to receive and investigate complaints of sexual  
14 harassment that constitute violations of paragraph j of subdivision  
15 three of section seventy-four of the public officers law. Such unit  
16 shall maintain a phone number to receive complaints, and post such  
17 number and instructions for filing a complaint of sexual harassment on  
18 the commission's publicly accessible website.

19 § 4. Subdivision 13 of section 94 of the executive law is amended by  
20 adding a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

21 (d) For an alleged violation of paragraph j of subdivision three of  
22 section seventy-four of the public officers law, filing a complaint  
23 shall not constitute an election of remedies. An individual shall not be  
24 required to exhaust other available administrative remedies to file a  
25 complaint. Neither the filing of a complaint at the conclusion of any  
26 investigation by the commission shall restrict a complainant's right to  
27 bring a separate action administratively or in a court of law. Notice to  
28 any complainant shall be provided upon the closure of any investigation.  
29 However, the individual shall notify the commission of any separate  
30 administrative action or action in the court of law relating to the same  
31 complaint. The commission may stay the matter before it pending the  
32 determination/conclusion of the separate action.

33 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

34 PART F

35 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 655 to  
36 read as follows:

37 § 655. Sexual harassment prevention policy. a. Notwithstanding any  
38 other provision of law to the contrary, the office of employee relations  
39 shall develop a sexual harassment prevention policy, applicable to each  
40 agency, office or department, which shall include information relating  
41 to how and with whom to file a complaint; the investigation procedures  
42 and a standard complaint form. The sexual harassment prevention policy  
43 shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

44 (i) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms  
45 shall have the following meanings:

46 (A) "sexual harassment" shall include unwelcome sexual advances,  
47 requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a  
48 sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either  
49 explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employ-  
50 ment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is  
51 used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or  
52 (3) such conduct has the purpose of effect of interfering with an indi-  
53 vidual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or  
54 offensive working environment.



1 (B) "employee" shall include any agency, office or department employ-  
2 ee, applicant, intern, fellow, volunteer or other individual paid or  
3 unpaid involved in the operation of the agency, office or department,  
4 contractor, vendor or consultant or employee of any contractor, vendor  
5 or consultant in the workplace of any agency, office or department.

6 (ii) Instructions to file a complaint. (A) Complaints may be filed by  
7 an employee to any supervisor, managerial employee, personnel adminis-  
8 trator, or affirmative action administrator. Any supervisory or manage-  
9 rial employee who observes or otherwise becomes aware of conduct of a  
10 sexually harassing nature, must report such conduct as set forth in the  
11 complaint procedure so that it can be investigated. If the office of  
12 employment relations otherwise becomes aware of conduct of a sexually  
13 harassing nature, it shall ensure an investigation is opened immediat-  
14 ly.

15 (B) A standard complaint form. A standard complaint form shall be  
16 available to every employee in the new employee orientation material and  
17 on the agency, office, or department's intranet. If an employee makes an  
18 oral complaint, the person receiving such complaint shall encourage the  
19 employee to fill out a standard complaint form. If the employee does not  
20 fill out the complaint form, the person receiving the complaint shall  
21 fill out such form based on the oral reporting.

22 (iii) Investigation procedure. (A) The office of employee relations  
23 shall designate an individual to investigate complaints of sexual  
24 harassment for each agency, office, and department. Upon receipt of a  
25 complaint of sexual harassment, a supervisor, managerial employee,  
26 personnel administrator, or affirmative action administrator shall imme-  
27 diately report such complaint to the designated individual, who shall  
28 open an investigation. The designated individual shall ensure that he or  
29 she does not have a conflict of interest in the allegations in the  
30 complaint, and if there is any suspected conflict of interest, the indi-  
31 vidual shall immediately notify the office of employee relations, which  
32 shall designate a new individual to conduct the investigation.

33 (B) An investigation into a complaint of sexual harassment shall take  
34 no more than ninety days from the filing of the complaint. If additional  
35 time is needed to complete an investigation due to its complexity, a  
36 request for an extension may be submitted to the office of employee  
37 relations.

38 (C) Any complaint of sexual harassment will be kept confidential,  
39 including the identity of the complainant, witnesses and the identity of  
40 the alleged harasser to the extent practicable during the course of the  
41 investigations.

42 (D) Any appropriate remedial steps may be taken to prevent intim-  
43 idation, retaliation, or coercion of the complainant by the alleged  
44 harasser. Such steps may include, but not be limited to, preventing the  
45 alleged harasser from contacting the complainant or from discussing the  
46 substance of the complaint with the complainant, or removing the alleged  
47 harasser from the workplace.

48 (E) Such procedures shall also include, at a minimum:

49 (1) the development of a preliminary investigation plan, which shall  
50 include at a minimum:

51 (I) an examination of: the circumstances surrounding the allegations;  
52 the employment history of the parties; the place, date, location, time,  
53 and duration of the incident in question; and prior relevant incidents  
54 or allegations, whether reported or unreported;

55 (II) identification of the complainant, alleged harasser, and any  
56 relevant witnesses;

1 (III) identification and communication of any legal hold request on  
2 any relevant documents, emails or phone records to legal counsel; and  
3 (IV) a determination of any necessary site visits;  
4 (2) an interview of the complainant, where necessary;  
5 (3) an interview of the alleged harasser, where necessary, which shall  
6 conform to the requirements of any applicable collective bargaining  
7 agreement or law; and

8 (4) any other relevant information relating to the allegations.

9 (iv) Completion of the investigation. (A) After the completion of an  
10 investigation, the individual who conducted the investigation shall  
11 draft a report, using a standard format developed by the office of  
12 employee relations. Such report shall contain, at minimum, a summary of  
13 relevant documents; a list of all individuals interviewed and a summary  
14 of their statements; a timeline of events; a summary of prior relevant  
15 incidents; and an analysis of the allegations and evidence.

16 (B) The report shall be submitted to the counsel at the agency,  
17 office, or department for review and recommendation. No more than thirty  
18 days after the completion of such investigation, a legal determination  
19 shall be issued. If there is a determination that the complaint or a  
20 component of such complaint is substantiated, appropriate administrative  
21 action shall be taken, which shall conform to any applicable collective  
22 bargaining agreement or law.

23 b. Such policy shall also include, but not be limited to the follow-  
24 ing:

25 (i) Contain a statement that sexual harassment is unlawful pursuant to  
26 state and federal civil rights laws, and shall be prohibited conduct in  
27 all state agencies, offices, and departments;

28 (ii) Contain a statement that retaliation against a complainant,  
29 witness or any other individual participating in the investigation proc-  
30 ess is unlawful and will not be tolerated;

31 (iii) Contain a statement that employees also have the right to file a  
32 complaint with the United States equal employment opportunity commis-  
33 sion, and the New York division of human rights;

34 (iv) Contain a statement that employees of state entities also have a  
35 right to file a complaint with the joint commission on public ethics,  
36 which shall include the contact information for employees to use to file  
37 such a complaint;

38 (v) Copies of the sexual harassment policy, as well as directions for  
39 filing a complaint, shall be distributed to all employees of state agen-  
40 cies, offices, departments, including the executive department upon  
41 commencing employment and annually thereafter; and

42 (vi) Provisions for appropriate annual interactive training for all  
43 employees of state agencies, offices, and departments, including the  
44 executive department.

45 c. Nothing in this section shall grant any additional legal rights to  
46 any employee and nothing herein abrogates compliance with any law, rule,  
47 or regulation that grants rights to an employee. Where there is a  
48 conflict between any collective bargaining agreement and this section,  
49 such agreement shall be controlling.

50 § 2. Section 80 of the legislative law is amended by adding a new  
51 subdivision 8-a to read as follows:

52 8-a. The legislative ethics commission shall receive and investigate  
53 complaints of "sexual harassment" as such term is defined in section  
54 seventy-four of the public officers law, received from any "employee" as  
55 such term is defined by section eighty-one of this article.

1 a. Standard complaint form. The legislative ethics commission shall  
2 ensure that a standard complaint form is available to every employee of  
3 the legislature. If an employee makes an oral complaint, the person  
4 receiving such complaint shall encourage the employee to fill out a  
5 standard complaint form. If the employee does not fill out the complaint  
6 form, the person shall fill out such form based on the oral reporting.

7 b. Investigation procedure. Upon the receipt of a complaint based on  
8 sexual harassment the executive director of the legislative ethics  
9 commission or his or her designee shall designate an individual to  
10 investigate the complaint of sexual harassment. The designated individ-  
11 ual shall ensure that he or she does not have a conflict of interest in  
12 the allegations in the complaint, and if there is any conflict of inter-  
13 est, the legislative ethics commission shall immediately notify the  
14 legislature and the legislative ethics commission shall designate anoth-  
15 er individual to conduct the investigation. Notice shall be provided to  
16 the persons involved.

17 c. (i) The complainant shall be notified of the statutory period in  
18 which to file a complaint with the United States equal opportunity  
19 commission and the New York state division of human rights.

20 (ii) An investigation into a complaint of sexual harassment shall take  
21 no more than ninety days from the filing of the complaint. If additional  
22 time is needed to complete an investigation due to its complexity, the  
23 time may be extended an additional ten days at the discretion of the  
24 legislative ethics commission.

25 (iii) Any complaint of sexual harassment will be kept confidential,  
26 including the identity of complainant, witnesses and the identity of the  
27 alleged harasser to the extent practicable during the course of the  
28 investigations.

29 (d) Completion of the investigation. (i) After the completion of an  
30 investigation, the individual who conducted the investigation shall  
31 draft a report, using a standard format developed by the legislative  
32 ethics commission. Such report shall contain, at a minimum, a summary of  
33 relevant documents; a list of all individuals interviewed and a summary  
34 of their statements; a timeline of events; a summary of prior relevant  
35 incidents; and an analysis of the allegations and evidence.

36 (ii) No more than thirty days after the completion of such investi-  
37 gation, a legal determination shall be issued. If there is a determi-  
38 nation that the complaint or a component of such complaint is substanti-  
39 ated, appropriate administrative action shall be taken, which shall  
40 conform to any applicable collective bargaining agreement or law.

41 § 3. Article 5 of the legislative law is amended by adding a new  
42 section 81 to read as follows:

43 § 81. Sexual harassment prevention policy. 1. Notwithstanding any  
44 other provision of law to the contrary, each house of the legislature  
45 shall develop a sexual harassment prevention policy, applicable to  
46 members of the legislature and all legislative employees, which shall  
47 include investigation procedures and a standard complaint form. The  
48 sexual harassment prevention policy shall include, but not be limited  
49 to, the following elements:

50 (a) Definitions. The following terms shall have the following mean-  
51 ings:

52 (i) "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for  
53 sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature  
54 when submission to or rejection of such conduct, explicitly or implicit-  
55 ly, affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an  
56 individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or

1 offensive work environment without regard to actual economic injury to  
2 or discharge of the individual.

3 (ii) "employee" shall include any legislative employee, applicant,  
4 intern, fellow, volunteer or other individual paid or unpaid involved in  
5 the operation of the legislature, contractor, vendor or consultant or  
6 employee of any contractor, vendor or consultant in the workplace of the  
7 legislature.

8 (b) Instructions to file a complaint. (i) Complaints may be filed by  
9 an employee to any supervisor, managerial employee, personnel adminis-  
10 trator, affirmative action administrator or the legislative ethics  
11 commission. Any supervisory or managerial employee who observes or  
12 otherwise becomes aware of conduct of a sexually harassing nature, shall  
13 report such conduct as set forth in the complaint procedure so that it  
14 can be investigated.

15 (ii) A standard complaint form. A standard complaint form shall be  
16 available to every employee of the legislature. If an employee makes an  
17 oral complaint, the person receiving such complaint shall encourage the  
18 employee to fill out a standard complaint form. If the employee does not  
19 fill out the complaint form, the person receiving such complaint shall  
20 fill out such form based on the oral reporting.

21 (c) Investigation procedure. (i) The legislature shall designate an  
22 independent attorney specializing in employment law to investigate  
23 complaints based on sexual harassment. Notice shall be provided to the  
24 persons involved. The complainant shall also be notified of the statuto-  
25 ry period in which to file a complaint with the United States equal  
26 opportunity commission and the New York state division of human rights  
27 and the right to file their complaint with the legislative ethics  
28 commission, and the joint commission on public ethics.

29 (ii) An investigation into a complaint of sexual harassment shall take  
30 no more than ninety days from the filing of the complaint. If the inde-  
31 pendent attorney conducting the investigation needs additional time to  
32 complete an investigation due to its complexity, the time may be  
33 extended an additional ten days at the discretion of the retained attor-  
34 ney. The parties involved shall be notified of the extension by the  
35 chief personnel officer or his or her designee and shall again be  
36 advised of the statutory period to file a complaint with the United  
37 States equal employment opportunity commission and the New York State  
38 division of human rights and their right to file their complaint with  
39 the legislative ethics commission, and the joint commission on public  
40 ethics.

41 (iii) Any complaint of sexual harassment will be kept confidential,  
42 including the identity of complainant, witnesses and the identity of the  
43 alleged harasser to the extent practicable during the course of the  
44 investigations.

45 (iv) Any appropriate remedial steps shall be taken to prevent intim-  
46 idation, retaliation, coercion or threats or promises of retaliation  
47 directed at the complainant or others including any potential witness or  
48 other party, by the alleged harasser or anyone acting on the harasser's  
49 behalf. Such steps may include, but not be limited to, preventing the  
50 alleged harasser from contacting the complainant or from discussing the  
51 substance of the complaint with the complainant.

52 (v) Such procedures shall also include, at a minimum:

53 (A) the development of a preliminary investigation plan, which shall  
54 include at a minimum:

55 (1) an examination of: the circumstances surrounding the allegations;  
56 the employment history of the parties; the place, date, location, time,

1 and duration of the incident in question; and prior relevant incidents  
2 or allegations;

3 (2) identification of the complainant, alleged harasser, and any rele-  
4 vant witnesses;

5 (3) identification and communication of any legal hold request on any  
6 relevant documents, emails or phone records to legal counsel; and

7 (4) a determination of any necessary site visits;

8 (B) an interview of the complainant, where necessary;

9 (C) an interview of the alleged harasser, where necessary, which shall  
10 conform to the requirements of any applicable collective bargaining  
11 agreement or law; and

12 (D) any other relevant information relating to the allegations.

13 (d) Completion of the investigation. (i) After the completion of an  
14 investigation, the individual who conducted the investigation shall  
15 draft a report, using a standard format developed by the legislature.  
16 Such report shall contain, at a minimum, a summary of relevant docu-  
17 ments; a list of all individuals interviewed and a summary of their  
18 statements; a timeline of events; a summary of prior relevant incidents;  
19 and an analysis of the allegations and evidence.

20 (ii) The report shall contain a legal recommendation and be completed  
21 no more than thirty days after the completion of such investigation. If  
22 there is a determination that the complaint or a component of such  
23 complaint is substantiated in whole or in part, appropriate administra-  
24 tive action shall be taken, which shall conform to any applicable  
25 collective bargaining agreement or law.

26 2. Such policy shall also include, but not be limited to the follow-  
27 ing:

28 (a) Contain a statement that sexual harassment is unlawful pursuant to  
29 state and federal civil rights laws, and shall be prohibited conduct in  
30 the legislature;

31 (b) Contain a statement that retaliation against a complainant,  
32 witness or any other individual participating in the investigation proc-  
33 ess is unlawful and will not be tolerated;

34 (c) Contain a statement that employees also have the right to file a  
35 complaint with the legislative ethics commission, the United States  
36 equal employment opportunity commission, and the New York division of  
37 human rights and the statutory periods within which such complaints  
38 shall be filed;

39 (d) Contain a statement that employees of state entities also have a  
40 right to file a complaint with the joint commission on public ethics,  
41 which shall include the contact information for employees to use to file  
42 such a complaint;

43 (e) Copies of the sexual harassment policy, as well as directions for  
44 filing a complaint, shall be distributed to the members of the legisla-  
45 ture and to all employees of the legislature upon commencing employment  
46 and annually thereafter; and

47 (f) Provisions for appropriate annual interactive training for all  
48 members of the legislature and employees of the legislature.

49 3. Nothing in this section shall grant any additional legal rights to  
50 any employee and nothing in this section abrogates compliance with any  
51 law, rule, or regulation that grants rights to an employee. Where there  
52 is a conflict between any collective bargaining agreement and this  
53 section, such agreement shall be controlling.

54 § 4. The judiciary law is amended by adding a new section 219-d to  
55 read as follows:

1 § 219-d. Sexual harassment prevention policy. 1. Notwithstanding any  
2 other provision of law to the contrary, the office of court adminis-  
3 tration shall develop a sexual harassment prevention policy, applicable  
4 to the judiciary and all judiciary employees, which shall include inves-  
5 tigation procedures and a standard complaint form. The sexual harassment  
6 prevention policy shall include, but not be limited to, the following  
7 elements:

8 (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms  
9 shall have the following meanings:

10 (i) "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for  
11 sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature  
12 when submission to or rejection of such conduct, explicitly or implicit-  
13 ly, affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an  
14 individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or  
15 offensive work environment without regard to actual economic injury to  
16 or discharge of the individual.

17 (ii) "employee" shall include any employee, applicant, intern, fellow,  
18 volunteer or other individual paid or unpaid involved in the operation  
19 of the judiciary, contractor, vendor or consultant, or employee of any  
20 contractor, vendor or consultant in the work place of the judiciary.

21 (b) Instructions to file a complaint. (i) Complaints may be filed by  
22 an employee to any supervisor, managerial employee, personnel adminis-  
23 trator, or affirmative action administrator. Any supervisory or manage-  
24 rial employee who observes or otherwise becomes aware of conduct of a  
25 sexually harassing nature, must report such conduct as set forth in the  
26 complaint procedure so that it can be investigated. If the office of  
27 court administration otherwise becomes aware of conduct of a sexually  
28 harassing nature, it shall ensure an investigation is opened immediate-  
29 ly.

30 (ii) A standard complaint form. A standard complaint form shall be  
31 available to every employee in the judiciary. If an employee makes an  
32 oral complaint, the person receiving such complaint shall encourage the  
33 employee to fill out a standard complaint form. If the employee does not  
34 fill out the complaint form, the person receiving such complaint shall  
35 fill out such form based on the oral reporting.

36 (c) Investigation procedure. (i) The office of court administration  
37 shall designate an individual to investigate complaints of sexual  
38 harassment. Upon receipt of a complaint of sexual harassment, a supervi-  
39 sor, managerial employee, personnel administrator, or affirmative action  
40 administrator shall immediately report such complaint to the designated  
41 individual, who shall open an investigation. The designated individual  
42 shall ensure that he or she does not have a conflict of interest in the  
43 allegations in the complaint, and if there is any conflict of interest,  
44 the individual shall immediately notify the office of court adminis-  
45 tration, which shall designate a new individual to conduct the investi-  
46 gation.

47 (ii) An investigation into a complaint of sexual harassment shall take  
48 no more than ninety days from the filing of the complaint. If additional  
49 time is needed to complete an investigation due to its complexity, a  
50 request for an extension may be submitted to the office of court admin-  
51 istration.

52 (iii) Any complaint of sexual harassment will be kept confidential,  
53 including the identity of the complainant, witnesses and the identity of  
54 the alleged harasser to the extent practicable during the course of the  
55 investigations.

1 (iv) Any appropriate remedial steps may be taken to prevent intim-  
2 idation, retaliation, or coercion of the complainant by the alleged  
3 harasser. Such steps may include, but not be limited to, preventing the  
4 alleged harasser from contacting the complainant or from discussing the  
5 substance of the complaint with the complainant.

6 (v) Such procedures shall also include, at a minimum:

7 (A) the development of a preliminary investigation plan, which shall  
8 include at a minimum:

9 (1) an examination of: the circumstances surrounding the allegations;  
10 the employment history of the parties; the place, date, location, time,  
11 and duration of the incident in question; and prior relevant incidents  
12 or allegations, whether reported or unreported;

13 (2) identification of the complainant, alleged harasser, and any rele-  
14 vant witnesses;

15 (3) identification and communication of any legal hold request on any  
16 relevant documents, emails or phone records to legal counsel; and

17 (4) a determination of any necessary site visits;

18 (B) an interview of the complainant, where necessary;

19 (C) an interview of the alleged harasser, where necessary, which shall  
20 conform to the requirements of any applicable collective bargaining  
21 agreement or law; and

22 (D) any other relevant information relating to the allegations.

23 (d) Completion of the investigation. (i) After the completion of an  
24 investigation, the individual who conducted the investigation shall  
25 draft a report, using a standard format developed by the office of court  
26 administration. Such report shall contain, at a minimum, a summary of  
27 relevant documents; a list of all individuals interviewed and a summary  
28 of their statements; a timeline of events; a summary of prior relevant  
29 incidents; and an analysis of the allegations and evidence.

30 (ii) The report shall be submitted to an individual designated by the  
31 office of court administration to review the report and make a legal  
32 recommendation. No more than thirty days after the completion of such  
33 investigation, a legal determination shall be issued. If there is a  
34 determination that the complaint or a component of such complaint is  
35 substantiated, appropriate administrative action shall be taken, which  
36 shall conform to any applicable collective bargaining agreement or law.

37 2. Such policy shall also include, but not be limited to the follow-  
38 ing:

39 (a) Contain a statement that sexual harassment is unlawful pursuant to  
40 state and federal civil rights laws, and shall be prohibited conduct in  
41 the judiciary;

42 (b) Contain a statement that retaliation against a complainant,  
43 witness or any other individual participating in the investigation proc-  
44 ess is unlawful and will not be tolerated;

45 (c) Contain a statement that employees also have the right to file a  
46 complaint with the United States equal employment opportunity commis-  
47 sion, and the New York division of human rights;

48 (d) Contain a statement that employees of state entities also have a  
49 right to file a complaint with the joint commission on public ethics,  
50 which shall include the contact information for employees to use to file  
51 such a complaint;

52 (e) Copies of the sexual harassment policy, as well as directions for  
53 filing a complaint, shall be distributed to all employees of the office  
54 of court administration upon commencing employment and annually there-  
55 after; and

1 (f) Provisions for appropriate annual interactive training for all  
2 employees of the judiciary.

3 3. Nothing in this section shall grant any additional legal rights to  
4 any employee and nothing in this section abrogates compliance with any  
5 law, rule, or regulation that grants rights to an employee. Where there  
6 is a conflict between any collective bargaining agreement and this  
7 section, such agreement shall be controlling.

8 § 5. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 686  
9 to read as follows:

10 § 686. Sexual harassment prevention policy. 1. Notwithstanding any  
11 other provision of law to the contrary, every county, city, town,  
12 village, school district and other political subdivision shall require  
13 its legal counsel to develop a sexual harassment prevention policy,  
14 applicable to all employees of such political subdivision, which shall  
15 include investigation procedures and a standard complaint form. The  
16 sexual harassment prevention policy shall include, but not be limited  
17 to, the following elements:

18 (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms  
19 shall have the following meanings:

20 (i) "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for  
21 sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature  
22 when submission to or rejection of such conduct, explicitly or implicit-  
23 ly, affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an  
24 individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or  
25 offensive work environment without regard to actual economic injury to  
26 or discharge of the individual.

27 (ii) "employee" shall include any employee, applicant, intern, fellow  
28 volunteer or other individual involved in the operation of the county,  
29 city, town, village, school district or other political subdivision, or  
30 contractor of every county, city, town, village, school district and  
31 other political subdivision or any employee, contractor, vendor or  
32 consultant or employee of any contractor, vendor or consultant in the  
33 workplace of every county, city, town, village, school district and  
34 other political subdivision.

35 (b) Instructions to file a complaint. (i) Complaints may be filed by  
36 an employee with any supervisor, managerial employee, personnel adminis-  
37 trator, or affirmative action administrator. Any supervisory or manage-  
38 rial employee who observes or otherwise becomes aware of conduct of a  
39 sexually harassing nature, must report such conduct as set forth in the  
40 complaint procedure so that it can be investigated. If the legal counsel  
41 of the county, city, town, village, school district or other political  
42 subdivision becomes aware of conduct of a sexually harassing nature, it  
43 shall ensure an investigation is opened immediately.

44 (ii) A standard complaint form. A standard complaint form shall be  
45 available to every employee in every county, city, town, village, school  
46 district or other political subdivision. If an employee makes an oral  
47 complaint, the person receiving such complaint shall encourage the  
48 employee to fill out a standard complaint form. If the employee does not  
49 fill out the complaint form, the person receiving such complaint shall  
50 fill out such form based on the oral reporting.

51 (c) Investigation procedure. (i) The legal counsel shall designate an  
52 individual or office to investigate complaints of sexual harassment.  
53 Upon receipt of a complaint of sexual harassment, a supervisor, manage-  
54 rial employee, personnel administrator, or affirmative action adminis-  
55 trator shall immediately report such complaint to the designated indi-  
56 vidual, who shall open an investigation. The designated individual shall



1 ensure that he or she does not have a conflict of interest in the alle-  
2 gations in the complaint, and if there is any conflict of interest, the  
3 individual shall immediately notify the legal counsel, which shall  
4 designate a new individual to conduct the investigation.

5 (ii) An investigation into a complaint of sexual harassment shall take  
6 no more than ninety days from the filing of the complaint. If additional  
7 time is needed to complete an investigation due to its complexity, a  
8 request for an extension may be submitted to the legal counsel.

9 (iii) Any complaint of sexual harassment will be kept confidential,  
10 including the identity of complainant, witnesses and the identity of the  
11 alleged harasser to the extent practicable during the course of the  
12 investigations.

13 (iv) Any appropriate remedial steps may be taken to prevent intim-  
14 idation, retaliation, or coercion of the complainant by the alleged  
15 harasser. Such steps may include, but not be limited to, preventing the  
16 alleged harasser from contacting the complainant or from discussing the  
17 substance of the complaint with the complainant.

18 (v) Such procedures shall also include, at a minimum:

19 (1) the development of a preliminary investigation plan, which shall  
20 include at a minimum:

21 (I) an examination of: the circumstances surrounding the allegations;  
22 the employment history of the parties; the place, date, location, time,  
23 and duration of the incident in question; and prior relevant incidents  
24 or allegations, whether reported or unreported;

25 (II) identification of the complainant, alleged harasser, and any  
26 relevant witnesses;

27 (III) identification and communication of any legal hold request on  
28 any relevant documents, emails or phone records to legal counsel; and

29 (IV) a determination of any necessary site visits;

30 (2) an interview of the complainant, where necessary;

31 (3) an interview of the alleged harasser, where necessary, which shall  
32 conform to the requirements of any applicable collective bargaining  
33 agreement or law; and

34 (4) any other relevant information relating to the allegations.

35 (d) Completion of the investigation. (i) After the completion of an  
36 investigation, the individual who conducted the investigation shall  
37 draft a report, using a standard format developed by the legal counsel.  
38 Such report shall contain, at minimum, a summary of relevant documents;  
39 a list of all individuals interviewed and a summary of their statements;  
40 a timeline of events; a summary of prior relevant incidents; and an  
41 analysis of the allegations and evidence.

42 (ii) The report shall be submitted to an individual designated by the  
43 legal counsel to review the report and make a legal recommendation. No  
44 more than thirty days after the completion of such investigation, a  
45 legal determination shall be issued. If there is a determination that  
46 the complaint or a component of such complaint is substantiated, appro-  
47 priate administrative action shall be taken, which shall conform to any  
48 applicable collective bargaining agreement or law.

49 2. Such policy shall also include, but not be limited to the follow-  
50 ing:

51 (a) Contain a statement that sexual harassment is unlawful pursuant to  
52 state and federal civil rights laws, and shall be prohibited conduct;

53 (b) Contain a statement that retaliation against a complainant,  
54 witness or any other individual participating in the investigation proc-  
55 ess is unlawful and will not be tolerated;

1 (c) Contain a statement that employees also have the right to file a  
2 complaint with the United States equal employment opportunity commis-  
3 sion, and the New York division of human rights;

4 (d) Copies of the sexual harassment policy, as well as directions for  
5 filing a complaint, shall be distributed to all employees of every coun-  
6 ty, city, town, village, school district or other political subdivision  
7 upon commencing employment and annually thereafter; and

8 (e) Provisions for appropriate annual interactive training for all  
9 employees of the political subdivision.

10 3. Nothing in this section shall grant any additional legal rights to  
11 any employee and nothing in this section abrogates compliance with any  
12 law, rule, or regulation that grants rights to an employee. Where there  
13 is a conflict between any collective bargaining agreement and this  
14 section, such agreement shall be controlling.

15 § 6. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section  
16 2854 to read as follows:

17 § 2854. Sexual harassment prevention policy. 1. Notwithstanding any  
18 other provision of law to the contrary, every state and local authority  
19 shall require its legal counsel to develop a sexual harassment  
20 prevention policy, applicable to all employees of such authority, which  
21 shall include investigation procedures and a standard complaint form.  
22 The sexual harassment prevention policy shall include, but not be limit-  
23 ed to, the following elements:

24 (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms  
25 shall have the following meanings:

26 (i) "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for  
27 sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature  
28 when submission to or rejection of such conduct, explicitly or implicit-  
29 ly, affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an  
30 individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or  
31 offensive work environment without regard to actual economic injury to  
32 or discharge of the individual.

33 (ii) "employee" shall include any employee, applicant, intern, fellow,  
34 volunteer or other individual involved in the operation of the state or  
35 local authority or contractor of every state and local authority, or any  
36 employee, contractor, vendor or consultant or employee of any contrac-  
37 tor, vendor or consultant in the workplace of the authority.

38 (b) Instructions to file a complaint. (i) Complaints may be filed by  
39 an employee with any supervisor, managerial employee, personnel adminis-  
40 trator, or affirmative action administrator. Any supervisory or manage-  
41 rial employee who observes or otherwise becomes aware of conduct of a  
42 sexually harassing nature, must report such conduct as set forth in the  
43 complaint procedure so that it can be investigated. If the legal counsel  
44 becomes aware of conduct of a sexually harassing nature, it shall ensure  
45 an investigation is opened immediately.

46 (ii) A standard complaint form. A standard complaint form shall be  
47 available to every employee of every state and local authority. If an  
48 employee makes an oral complaint, the person receiving such complaint  
49 shall encourage the employee to fill out a standard complaint form. If  
50 the employee does not fill out the complaint form, the person receiving  
51 such complaint shall fill out such form based on the oral reporting.

52 (c) Investigation procedure. (i) The legal counsel shall designate an  
53 individual to investigate complaints of sexual harassment for the  
54 authority. Upon receipt of a complaint of sexual harassment, a supervi-  
55 sor, managerial employee, personnel administrator, or affirmative action  
56 administrator shall immediately report such complaint to the designated

1 individual, who shall open an investigation. The designated individual  
2 shall ensure that he or she does not have a conflict of interest in the  
3 allegation in the complaint, and if there is any conflict of interest,  
4 the individual shall immediately notify the legal counsel, which shall  
5 designate a new individual to conduct the investigation.

6 (ii) An investigation into a complaint of sexual harassment shall take  
7 no more than ninety days from the filing of the complaint. If additional  
8 time is needed to complete an investigation due to its complexity, a  
9 request for an extension may be submitted to the authority.

10 (iii) Any complaint of sexual harassment will be kept confidential,  
11 including the identity of the complainant, witnesses and the identity of  
12 the alleged harasser to the extent practicable during the course of the  
13 investigations.

14 (iv) Any appropriate remedial steps may be taken to prevent intim-  
15 idation, retaliation, or coercion of the complainant by the alleged  
16 harasser. Such steps may include, but not be limited to, preventing the  
17 alleged harasser from contacting the complainant or from discussing the  
18 substance of the complaint with the complainant.

19 (v) Such procedures shall also include, at a minimum:

20 (A) the development of a preliminary investigation plan, which shall  
21 include at a minimum:

22 (1) an examination of: the circumstances surrounding the allegations;  
23 the employment history of the parties; the place, date, location, time,  
24 and duration of the incident in question; and prior relevant incidents  
25 or allegations, whether reported or unreported;

26 (2) identification of the complainant, alleged harasser, and any rele-  
27 vant witnesses;

28 (3) identification and communication of any legal hold request on any  
29 relevant documents, emails or phone records to legal counsel; and

30 (4) a determination of any necessary site visits;

31 (B) an interview of the complainant, where necessary;

32 (C) an interview of the alleged harasser, where necessary, which shall  
33 conform to the requirements of any applicable collective bargaining  
34 agreement or law;

35 (D) any other relevant information relating to the allegations.

36 (d) Completion of the investigation. (i) After the completion of an  
37 investigation, the individual who conducted the investigation shall  
38 draft a report, using a standard format developed by the legal counsel.  
39 Such report shall contain, at minimum, a summary of relevant documents;  
40 a list of all individuals interviewed and a summary of their statements;  
41 a timeline of events; a summary of prior relevant incidents; and an  
42 analysis of the allegations and evidence.

43 (ii) The report shall be submitted to an individual designated to  
44 review the report and make a legal recommendation. No more than thirty  
45 days after the completion of such investigation, a legal determination  
46 shall be issued. If there is a determination that the complaint or a  
47 component of such complaint is substantiated, appropriate administrative  
48 action shall be taken, which shall conform to any applicable collective  
49 bargaining agreement or law.

50 2. Such policy shall also include, but not be limited to the follow-  
51 ing:

52 (a) Contain a statement that sexual harassment is unlawful pursuant to  
53 state and federal civil rights laws, and shall be prohibited conduct;

54 (b) Contain a statement that retaliation against a complainant,  
55 witness or any other individual participating in the investigation proc-  
56 ess is unlawful and will not be tolerated;

1 (c) Contain a statement that employees also have the right to file a  
2 complaint with the United States equal employment opportunity commis-  
3 sion, and the New York division of human rights;

4 (d) Contain a statement that employees of state entities also have a  
5 right to file a complaint with the joint commission on public ethics,  
6 which shall include the contact information for employees to use to file  
7 such a complaint;

8 (e) Copies of the sexual harassment policy, as well as directions for  
9 filing a complaint, shall be distributed to all employees of the author-  
10 ity upon commencing employment and annually thereafter; and

11 (f) Provisions for appropriate annual interactive training for all  
12 employees of the authority.

13 3. Nothing in this section shall grant any additional legal rights to  
14 any employee and nothing in this section abrogates compliance with any  
15 law, rule, or regulation that grants rights to an employee. Where there  
16 is a conflict between any collective bargaining agreement and this  
17 section, such agreement shall be controlling.

18 § 7. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a  
19 law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any  
20 rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its  
21 effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such  
22 effective date.

23 PART G

24 Section 1. The labor law is amended by adding a new section 44 to read  
25 as follows:

26 § 44. Prevention of sexual harassment. 1. The department shall produce  
27 a strong model management policy defining and prohibiting sexual harass-  
28 ment in the workplace. Such model policy shall (a) define sexual harass-  
29 ment and provide examples of conduct that would be defined as unlawful  
30 sexual harassment; (b) include but not be limited to information  
31 concerning the federal and state statutory provisions concerning sexual  
32 harassment and remedies available to victims of sexual harassment; and  
33 (c) inform employees of their rights of redress and the availability and  
34 forms of complaint resolution assistance available.

35 Such model policy shall clearly state that sexual harassment is  
36 considered a form of employee misconduct and that sanctions will be  
37 enforced against individuals engaging in sexual harassment and against  
38 supervisory and managerial personnel who knowingly allow such behavior  
39 to continue.

40 2. The department shall produce a model training program to prevent  
41 sexual harassment in the workplace. (a) Such model training program  
42 shall be interactive and no less than two hours in length and include  
43 (i) a definition of sexual harassment; (ii) examples of conduct that  
44 would be defined as unlawful; and (iii) information concerning the  
45 federal and state statutory provisions concerning sexual harassment and  
46 remedies available to victims of sexual harassment.

47 (b) Such department shall also include information in such model  
48 program specifically addressing conduct by supervisors as both partic-  
49 ipants in a general training program and in a supervisor-specific  
50 program to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace.

51 3. The department shall consult with the division of human rights in  
52 the production of the information set forth under this section.

53 4. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations allowing for the  
54 distribution of the information set forth in this section and promoting

1 the availability of the information set forth in this section to employ-  
2 ers and the public.

3 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
4 it shall have become a law.

5 § 2. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivi-  
6 sion, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of  
7 competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect,  
8 impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in  
9 its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section  
10 or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judg-  
11 ment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of  
12 the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such  
13 invalid provisions had not been included herein.

14 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately provided, however, that  
15 the applicable effective date of Parts A through G of this act shall be  
16 as specifically set forth in the last section of such Parts.