

STATE OF NEW YORK

4396--A

Cal. No. 1116

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 11, 2019

Introduced by Sen. RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Labor -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to retaliatory personnel actions by employers

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 740 of the labor law, as added by chapter 660 of the laws of 1984, is amended to read as follows:

(a) "Employee" means an individual who performs services for and under the control and direction of an employer for wages or other remuneration or natural persons employed as independent contractors to carry out work in furtherance of an employer's business enterprise who are not themselves employers.

§ 2. The opening paragraph and paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 740 of the labor law, the opening paragraph as added by chapter 660 of the laws of 1984 and paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 442 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

An employer shall not take any retaliatory personnel action against an employee, whether or not within the scope of the employee's job duties, because such employee does any of the following:

(a) discloses, or threatens to disclose to a supervisor or to a public body an activity, policy or practice of the employer [~~that~~] which the employee reasonably believes is in violation of law, rule or regulation [~~which violation creates and presents~~] or which the employee reasonably believes poses a substantial and specific danger to the public health or safety, or which constitutes health care fraud;

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

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1 § 3. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 of section 740 of the labor law,
2 as added by chapter 660 of the laws of 1984, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 (c) It shall be a defense to any action brought pursuant to this
5 section that the personnel action was predicated upon grounds other than
6 the employee's exercise of any rights protected by this section. [~~It~~
7 ~~shall also be a defense that the individual was an independent contrac-~~
8 ~~tor.~~]

9 § 4. Paragraphs (b), (d) and (e) of subdivision 5 of section 740 of
10 the labor law, as added by chapter 660 of the laws of 1984, are amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (b) the reinstatement of the employee to the same position held before
13 the retaliatory personnel action, or to an equivalent position, or front
14 pay in lieu thereof;

15 (d) the compensation for lost wages, benefits and other remuneration;
16 [~~and~~]

17 (e) the payment by the employer of reasonable costs, disbursements,
18 and attorney's fees; and

19 (f) the payment by the employer of punitive damages, if the violation
20 was willful, malicious or wanton.

21 § 5. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
22 have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the
23 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary
24 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized
25 to be made by the commissioner of labor of the state of New York on or
26 before such effective date.