

STATE OF NEW YORK

5776--B

Cal. No. 252

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 19, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. DINOWITZ, REYES, SAYEGH, GOTTFRIED, GALEF, D'URSO, STIRPE, ARROYO, SIMON, STECK, CRUZ, GLICK, ZEBROWSKI, ORTIZ, WEPRIN, FERNANDEZ -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, DenDEKKER, ENGLEBRIGHT, GRIFFIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported from committee, advanced to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the general obligations law, in relation to prohibiting agreements between employers that directly restrict the current or future employment of any employee

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "End
2 Employer Collusion Act".

3 § 2. The general obligations law is amended by adding a new section
4 5-337 to read as follows:

5 § 5-337. Agreements between certain employers restricting the current
6 or future employment of an employee void. (a) For the purposes of this
7 section, the following term "restrictive employment agreement" shall
8 mean any agreement that:

9 (i) is included in a franchise agreement; and

10 (ii) prohibits or restricts one or more franchisees from soliciting or
11 hiring the employees or former employees of the franchisor or another
12 franchisee.

13 (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no franchisor or
14 person acting on its behalf may enter into or renew a restrictive
15 employment agreement, enforce a restrictive employment agreement, or
16 threaten to enforce a restrictive employment agreement and any restric-
17 tive employment agreement is hereby void.

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

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1 (c) Every person who was denied employment due to a restrictive
2 employment agreement or was otherwise damaged due to a violation of
3 subdivision (b) of this section may maintain an action for damages equal
4 to the sum of (i) any actual damages sustained by the individual as a
5 result of such violation, (ii) such amount of punitive damages as the
6 court may allow, and (iii) in the case of any successful action to
7 enforce any liability under this section, the costs of the action
8 together with reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the court.

9 (d) Whenever the attorney general believes that there has been a
10 violation of this section, he or she may proceed as provided in subdivi-
11 sion twelve of section sixty-three of the executive law.

12 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.