

STATE OF NEW YORK

5395

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 3, 2021

Introduced by Sen. SAVINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to the secure choice savings program

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

1 Section 1. Section 1301 of the general business law, as added by
2 section 2 of part X of chapter 55 of the laws of 2018, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 § 1301. Program established. There is hereby established a retirement
5 savings program in the form of [a] an automatic enrollment payroll
6 deduction IRA, known as the New York state secure choice savings
7 program. The general administration and responsibility for the proper
8 operation of the program shall be administered by the board for the
9 purpose of promoting greater retirement savings for private-sector
10 employees in a convenient, low-cost, and portable manner. The board may
11 delegate such authority and responsibility for the development and
12 implementation of the program to the department of taxation and finance
13 as the board deems proper.

14 § 2. Subdivisions 7 and 9 of section 1304 of the general business law,
15 as added by section 2 of part X of chapter 55 of the laws of 2018, are
16 amended to read as follows:

17 7. Evaluate and establish or authorize the process for:

18 (a) an enrollee to contribute a portion of his or her wages to the
19 program via payroll deduction; and

20 (b) the [~~voluntary~~] enrollment of participating employers in the
21 program.

22 9. Evaluate and establish or authorize the process for enrollment
23 including the process by which an employee may opt not to participate in
24 the program, select a contribution level, select an investment option,
25 and terminate participation in the program.

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

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1 § 3. Subdivisions 3, 4 and 5 of section 1309 of the general business
2 law, as added by section 2 of part X of chapter 55 of the laws of 2018,
3 are amended to read as follows:

4 3. The employee informational materials shall include a disclosure
5 form. The disclosure form shall explain, but not be limited to, all of
6 the following:

7 (a) the benefits and risks associated with making contributions to the
8 program;

9 (b) the process for making contributions to the program;

10 (c) how to [~~cease participation in~~] opt out of the program;

11 (d) the process by which an employee can participate in the program
12 with a level of employee contributions other than three percent;

13 (e) that they are not required to participate or contribute more than
14 three percent;

15 (f) the process for withdrawal of retirement savings;

16 (g) the process for selecting beneficiaries of their retirement
17 savings;

18 (h) how to obtain additional information about the program;

19 (i) that employees seeking financial advice should contact financial
20 advisors, that participating employers are not in a position to provide
21 financial advice, and that participating employers are not liable for
22 decisions employees make pursuant to this article;

23 (j) information on how to access any available financial literacy
24 programs; [~~and~~]

25 (k) that the program fund is not guaranteed by the state; and

26 (l) that they can opt out after they have been enrolled.

27 4. The employee informational materials shall also include a form for
28 an employee to note his or her decision [~~regarding~~] to opt out of
29 participation in the program or [~~election~~] elect to participate with a
30 level of employee contributions other than three percent.

31 5. Participating employers shall supply the employee informational
32 materials to existing employees at least one month prior to the partic-
33 ipating employers' facilitation of access to the program. Participating
34 employers shall supply the employee informational materials to new
35 employees at the time of hiring and new employees may opt out of partic-
36 ipation in the program.

37 § 4. Subdivision 1 of section 1313 of the general business law, as
38 added by section 2 of part X of chapter 55 of the laws of 2018, is
39 amended to read as follows:

40 1. Participating employers shall not have any liability for an employ-
41 ee's decision regarding whether to participate in, or opt out of, the
42 program or for the investment decisions of the board or of any enrollee.

43 § 5. Subdivisions 1, 4 and 5 of section 1310 of the general business
44 law, as added by section 2 of part X of chapter 55 of the laws of 2018,
45 are amended to read as follows:

46 1. [~~No employer shall be required to participate in or otherwise~~
47 ~~implement the program.~~] (a) Each participating employer shall have a
48 payroll deposit retirement savings arrangement to allow each employee to
49 participate in the program at most nine months after the board opens the
50 program for enrollment.

51 (b) Participating employers shall automatically enroll in the program
52 each of their employees who has not opted out of participation in the
53 program using the form described in this article and shall provide
54 payroll deduction retirement savings arrangements for such employees and
55 deposit, on behalf of such employees, these funds into the program.

1 4. Following initial implementation of the program pursuant to this
2 section, at least once every year, the program shall designate an open
3 enrollment period during which employees who previously opted out of the
4 program may enroll in the program.

5 5. An employee who [~~chooses not to participate in~~] opts out of the
6 program and who subsequently wants to participate may only enroll during
7 the program's designated open enrollment period or if permitted by the
8 program at an earlier time.

9 § 6. Subdivisions 4 and 8 of section 1300 of the general business law,
10 as added by section 2 of part X of chapter 55 of the laws of 2018, are
11 amended to read as follows:

12 4. "Employer" shall mean a person or entity engaged in a business,
13 industry, profession, trade, or other enterprise in New York state,
14 whether for profit or not for profit, that (i) has at all times during
15 the previous calendar year employed at least ten employees in the state,
16 (ii) has been in business at least two years, and (iii) has not offered
17 a qualified retirement plan, including, but not limited to, a plan qual-
18 ified under sections 401(a), 401(k), 403(a), 403(b), 408(k), 408(p) or
19 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in the preceding two years.

20 8. "Participating employer" shall mean an employer that [~~elects to~~
21 ~~facilitate~~] facilitates access to the program's payroll deduction IRA as
22 provided for by this article for its employees who are enrollees in the
23 program.

24 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately.