

STATE OF NEW YORK

761

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the general obligations law, in relation to the liability of payroll processing companies

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

1 Section 1. The general obligations law is amended by adding a new
2 section 11-108 to read as follows:

3 § 11-108. Liability of payroll processing company. 1. For the
4 purposes of this section, "payroll processing company" means a person or
5 business entity under contract to an employer that: (a) calculates,
6 processes and produces wage payments to the employer's employees under
7 such employer's federal employer identification number; (b) withholds
8 and remits applicable taxes to government agencies using the employer's
9 federal employment identification number; (c) issues federal and state
10 income tax forms to the employer's employees using such employer's
11 federal employer identification number; and (d) conditions wage payments
12 to the employer's employees on the advance receipt of funds from such
13 employer to fully cover such wage payments. A person acting as an
14 employer under 26 U.S.C. 3401(d)(1) that otherwise meets the definition
15 of a payroll processing company shall not be considered a payroll proc-
16 essing company if the person acting as an employer and the employee are
17 subject to a collective bargaining agreement and such collective
18 bargaining agreement expressly provides for the recovery of unpaid, lost
19 or stolen wages.

20 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a
21 payroll processing company that intentionally and without good cause
22 prevents the remittance of taxes or payment of wages pursuant to the
23 contract with the employer shall be liable to an employee of the employ-
24 er that failed to receive an owed payment within one business day of the

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

LBD05137-01-1

1 date such payment was expected for an amount up to three times the owed
2 payment of wages and applicable taxes. Good cause may include, but shall
3 not be limited to, the failure of an employer to provide sufficient
4 funds by the applicable deadline, reasonable efforts to verify poten-
5 tially fraudulent activity, failure of an employer to provide the neces-
6 sary payroll input, observance of relevant state and federal laws or
7 regulations, and other factors outside the control of the payroll proc-
8 essing company; provided a payroll processing company shall not have
9 good cause under this section if such payroll processing company acts or
10 fails to act in violation of applicable state and federal laws and regu-
11 lations.

12 3. Liability under this section is in addition to any other applicable
13 penalties and causes of action.

14 4. An action to recover damages under this section may be maintained
15 as a class action, notwithstanding subdivision b of section nine hundred
16 one of the civil practice law and rules.

17 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.