

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8297--A

## IN SENATE

February 10, 2022

Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, BIAGGI, KRUEGER, LIU, MYRIE, RAMOS --  
read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to  
the Committee on Judiciary -- committee discharged, bill amended,  
ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the civil practice law and rules, in relation to permit-  
ting certain testimony and evidence by a person alleging discrimi-  
nation

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

1 Section 1. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a  
2 new rule 4550 to read as follows:

3 Rule 4550. Admissibility of allegations of discrimination; hearsay  
4 exception. (a) When used in this rule, "discrimination" shall mean any  
5 unlawful discriminatory practice pursuant to article fifteen of the  
6 executive law, including unlawful discriminatory practices based on  
7 race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity  
8 or expression, military status, age, sex, marital status, childbearing  
9 potential, disability, or familial status.

10 (b) In a civil action, at the trial or upon the hearing of a motion or  
11 an interlocutory proceeding, evidence that a party alleging discrimi-  
12 nation, including but not limited to sexual harassment and/or miscon-  
13 duct, reported such discrimination or facts giving rise to an inference  
14 of such discrimination to another person, including evidence concerning  
15 the contents of such report or statement of facts, may be admitted as an  
16 exception to the inadmissibility of hearsay to support the allegation  
17 that discrimination occurred.

18 (c) For evidence of a report or statement to be admissible under this  
19 rule, such report or statement must have been made before the last  
20 adverse action complained of is taken, or promptly after such action is  
21 taken. Promptness shall be determined by all facts and circumstances,  
22 giving due regard to the sensitivity of the subject matter, the mental  
23 state of the party alleging discrimination, or any other relevant infor-  
24 mation.

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

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1     (d) The proponent of such evidence has the burden of demonstrating  
2     that the reporting was made under circumstances which render it reason-  
3     ably reliable.

4     (e) This rule is only applicable in civil matters and shall not apply  
5     in criminal proceedings.

6     § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.