

# STATE OF NEW YORK

688

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. DINOWITZ, REYES, SAYEGH, STIRPE, SIMON, STECK, CRUZ, GLICK, ZEBROWSKI, WEPRIN, L. ROSENTHAL -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary

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 5-338 to read as follows:

5 § 5-338. 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.

18 (c) Every person who was denied employment due to a restrictive  
19 employment agreement or was otherwise damaged due to a violation of  
20 subdivision (b) of this section may maintain an action for damages equal  
21 to the sum of (i) any actual damages sustained by the individual as a  
22 result of such violation, (ii) such amount of punitive damages as the  
23 court may allow, and (iii) in the case of any successful action to

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

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1 enforce any liability under this section, the costs of the action  
2 together with reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the court.

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

6 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.