

STATE OF NEW YORK

10215

IN SENATE

May 6, 2026

Introduced by Sen. GOUNARDES -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring employers to annually report to the division of human rights the number of settlements with employees and other individuals performing services in the workplace regarding claims of discrimination on the basis of sex, including verbal and physical sexual harassment; requiring the division of human rights to provide an annual report to the governor and the legislature; and to make conforming technical changes

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

1 Section 1. Sections 300 and 301 of the executive law are renumbered
2 sections 308 and 309.

3 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 300 to read
4 as follows:

5 § 300. Reporting of workplace sexual harassment claims. 1. Each
6 employer subject to the provisions of this article shall annually report
7 to the division the total number of settlements reached with employees
8 and non-employees regarding the resolution of claims of discrimination
9 on the basis of sex, including verbal and physical sexual harassment in
10 an anonymized, aggregated fashion.

11 2. Settlements required to be reported under this section shall
12 include any agreement or arrangement where anything of value is
13 conferred to the individual raising the claim in return for such indi-
14 vidual declining to further pursue the claim, and any internal mediation
15 or other workplace resolution that results in the individual declining
16 to further pursue the claim.

17 3. Claims of discrimination on the basis of sex include, but are not
18 limited to, claims of the following:

19 (a) inappropriate or unwanted touching;

20 (b) verbal comments about sex or of a sexual nature, which may include
21 comments to an individual about the individual's body or sexual or

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

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1 romantic activity or the body or sexual or romantic activity of the
2 individual making the comments;

3 (c) referring to another individual by a name or nickname of a roman-
4 tic, demeaning, or sexual nature;

5 (d) inappropriate gestures of a sexual nature;

6 (e) unwanted proposals for sexual activity;

7 (f) showing another individual photos or other images that are sexual-
8 ly explicit or are otherwise of a sexual nature; and

9 (g) undue attention to or questions about a person's sexual relation-
10 ships, sexual history, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

11 4. Reports required to be submitted pursuant to this section shall be
12 on forms and according to such procedures as the division shall estab-
13 lish.

14 5. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person
15 engaged in any activity to which this section applies to retaliate or
16 discriminate against an individual because the individual has:

17 (a) inquired about an employer's compliance with the provisions of
18 this section;

19 (b) complained about an employer's lack of compliance with the
20 provisions of this section; or

21 (c) reported an employer's lack of compliance with the provisions of
22 this section to the division or to another agency, including law
23 enforcement agencies.

24 6. (a) Nothing in this section shall be construed to interfere with
25 the right of an employee or non-employee to enter into a confidentiality
26 or non-disclosure agreement with their employer with respect to a claim
27 of discrimination on the basis of sex, including verbal and physical
28 sexual harassment, the investigation of such a claim, or the out-of-
29 court settlement of such a claim.

30 (b) An employer may not use a confidentiality or non-disclosure agree-
31 ment described in paragraph (a) of this subdivision as a basis for fail-
32 ing or refusing to submit to the division the information required by
33 subdivisions one and two of this section.

34 (c) A confidentiality or non-disclosure agreement as described in
35 paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall not be construed as prohibiting
36 any party to such agreement from cooperating with law enforcement inves-
37 tigations into any claims of discrimination on the basis of sex, includ-
38 ing verbal and physical sexual harassment.

39 7. As used in this section:

40 (a) "employer" includes all employers within the state; and

41 (b) "non-employee" means a person other than an employee who provides
42 services pursuant to a contract or other agreement in the workplace,
43 including but not limited to, a vendor, consultant, free-lancer or
44 employee of a temporary or staffing agency.

45 § 3. Section 295 of the executive law is amended by adding a new
46 subdivision 19 to read as follows:

47 19. Annually, on or before April first, the division shall submit to
48 the governor and to the legislature, and shall make available to the
49 public on its website, a report containing the following information
50 relating to claims of discrimination on the basis of sex, including
51 verbal and physical sexual harassment:

52 (a) the number of settlements that were reported to the division as
53 defined by and reported pursuant to this section;

54 (b) the number of charges alleging discrimination on the basis of sex
55 that were reported to the division, from any source, including verbal
56 and physical sexual harassment made directly to the division;

1 (c) a summary of any action taken by the division based upon any such
2 charges or complaints collected pursuant to this section, such as liti-
3 gation or settlements facilitated by the division pertaining to discrim-
4 ination on the basis of sex, including verbal and physical sexual
5 harassment, including a brief description of any outcome of such
6 actions; and

7 (d) the number of settlements that were reported to the division shall
8 be categorized by the industry of the employer, as classified pursuant
9 to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as adopted
10 by the United States Office of Management and Budget.

11 § 4. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
12 ing the date upon which it shall have become a law. Effective immediate-
13 ly the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation
14 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
15 authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.