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SEE MOST RECENT VERSION BEFORE OR ON:

2023-01-06



SECTION 194

Differential in rate of pay because of protected class status prohibited

Labor (LAB) CHAPTER 31, ARTICLE 6

§ 194. Differential in rate of pay because of protected class status prohibited. 1. No employee with status within one or more protected class or classes shall be paid a wage at a rate less than the rate at which an employee without status within the same protected class or classes in the same establishment is paid for: (a) equal work on a job the performance of which requires equal skill, effort and

responsibility, and which is performed under similar working conditions, or (b) substantially similar work, when viewed as a composite of skill, effort, and responsibility, and performed under similar working conditions; except where payment is made pursuant to a differential based on:

(i) a seniority system;

(ii) a merit system;

(iii) a system which measures earnings by quantity or quality of production; or

(iv) a bona fide factor other than status within one or more protected class or classes, such as education, training, or experience. Such factor: (A) shall not be based upon or derived from a differential in compensation based on status within one or more protected class or classes and (B) shall be job-related with respect to the position in question and shall be consistent with business necessity. Such exception under this paragraph shall not apply when the employee demonstrates (1) that an employer uses a particular employment practice that causes a disparate impact on the basis of status within one or more protected class or classes, (2) that an alternative employment practice exists that would serve the same business purpose and not produce such differential, and (3) that the employer has refused to adopt such alternative practice.

2. For the purpose of subdivision one of this section: (a) "business necessity" shall be defined as a factor that bears a manifest relationship to the employment in question, and (b) "protected class" shall include age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status, or domestic violence victim status, and any employee

protected from discrimination pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subdivision one of section two hundred ninety-six and any intern protected from discrimination pursuant to section two hundred ninety-six-c of the executive law.

3. For the purposes of subdivision one of this section, employees shall be deemed to work in the same establishment if the employees work for the same employer at workplaces located in the same geographical region, no larger than a county, taking into account population distribution, economic activity, and/or the presence of municipalities.

4. (a) No employer shall prohibit an employee from inquiring about, discussing, or disclosing the wages of such employee or another employee.

(b) An employer may, in a written policy provided to all employees, establish reasonable workplace and workday limitations on the time, place and manner for inquires about, discussion of, or the disclosure of wages. Such limitations shall be consistent with standards promulgated by the commissioner and shall be consistent with all other state and federal laws. Such limitations may include prohibiting an employee from discussing or disclosing the wages of another employee without such employee's prior permission.

(c) Nothing in this subdivision shall require an employee to disclose his or her wages. The failure of an employee to adhere to such reasonable limitations in such written policy shall be an affirmative defense to any claims made against an employer under this subdivision, provided that any adverse employment action taken by the employer was for failure to adhere to such reasonable limitations and not for mere inquiry, discussion or disclosure of wages in accordance with such reasonable limitations in such written policy.

(d) This prohibition shall not apply to instances in which an employee

who has access to the wage information of other employees as a part of such employee's essential job functions discloses the wages of such other employees to individuals who do not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a complaint or charge, or in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action under this chapter, including an investigation conducted by the employer.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the rights of an employee provided under any other provision of law or collective bargaining agreement.

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SEE MOST RECENT VERSION BEFORE OR ON:

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SECTION 194-A

Wage or salary history inquiries prohibited

Labor (LAB) CHAPTER 31, ARTICLE 6

§ 194-a. Wage or salary history inquiries prohibited. 1. No employer shall:

a. rely on the wage or salary history of an applicant in determining whether to offer employment to such individual or in determining the wages or salary for such individual.

b. orally or in writing seek, request, or require the wage or salary history from an applicant or current employee as a condition to be interviewed, or as a condition of continuing to be considered for an offer of employment, or as a condition of employment or promotion.

c. orally or in writing seek, request, or require the wage or salary history of an applicant or current employee from a current or former employer, current or former employee, or agent of the applicant or current employee's current or former employer, except as provided in subdivision three of this section.

d. refuse to interview, hire, promote, otherwise employ, or otherwise retaliate against an applicant or current employee based upon prior wage or salary history.

e. refuse to interview, hire, promote, otherwise employ, or otherwise retaliate against an applicant or current employee because such applicant or current employee did not provide wage or salary history in accordance with this section.

f. refuse to interview, hire, promote, otherwise employ, or otherwise retaliate against an applicant or current or former employee because the applicant or current or former employee filed a complaint with the department alleging a violation of this section.

2. Nothing in this section shall prevent an applicant or current employee from voluntarily, and without prompting, disclosing or verifying wage or salary history, including but not limited to for the purposes of negotiating wages or salary.

3. An employer may confirm wage or salary history only if at the time an offer of employment with compensation is made, the applicant or current employee responds to the offer by providing prior wage or salary

information to support a wage or salary higher than offered by the employer.

4. For the purposes of this section, "employer" shall include but not be limited to any person, corporation, limited liability company, association, labor organization, or entity employing any individual in any occupation, industry, trade, business or service, or any agent thereof. For the purposes of this section, the term "employer" shall also include the state, any political subdivision thereof, any public authority or any other governmental entity or instrumentality thereof, and any person, corporation, limited liability company, association or entity acting as an employment agent, recruiter, or otherwise connecting applicants with employers.

5. An applicant or current or former employee aggrieved by a violation of this section may bring a civil action for compensation for any damages sustained as a result of such violation on behalf of such applicant, employee, or other persons similarly situated in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court may award injunctive relief as well as reasonable attorneys' fees to a plaintiff who prevails in a civil action brought under this paragraph.

6. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to diminish the rights, privileges, or remedies of any applicant or current or former employee under any other law or regulation or under any collective bargaining agreement or employment contract.

7. This section shall not supersede any federal, state or local law enacted prior to the effective date of this section that requires the disclosure or verification of salary history information to determine an employee's compensation.

8. The department shall conduct a public awareness outreach campaign,

which shall include making information available on its website, and otherwise informing employers of the provisions of this section.

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SEE MOST RECENT VERSION BEFORE OR ON:

2023-01-06



SECTION 194-B

Mandatory disclosure of compensation or range of compensation

Labor (LAB) CHAPTER 31, ARTICLE 6

* § 194-b. Mandatory disclosure of compensation or range of compensation. 1. a. No employer, employment agency, employee, or agent thereof shall advertise a job, promotion, or transfer opportunity that can or will be performed, at least in part, in the state of New York, without disclosing the following:

(i) the compensation or a range of compensation for such job, promotion, or transfer opportunity; and

(ii) the job description for such job, promotion, or transfer opportunity, if such description exists.

b. Advertisements for jobs, promotions, or transfer opportunities paid solely on commission shall maintain compliance with subparagraph (i) of paragraph a of this subdivision by disclosing in writing in a general statement that compensation shall be based on commission.

2. No employer shall refuse to interview, hire, promote, employ or otherwise retaliate against an applicant or current employee for exercising any rights under this section.

3. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this section.

4. The department shall conduct a public awareness outreach campaign, which shall include making information available on its website and otherwise informing employers of the provisions of this section.

5. a. Any person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section may file with the commissioner a complaint regarding such alleged violation for an investigation of such complaint and statement setting the appropriate remedy, if any, pursuant to the provisions of section one hundred ninety-six-a of this article.

b. An employer who fails to comply with any requirement of this section or any regulation published thereunder shall be deemed in violation of this section and shall be subject to a civil penalty in accordance with section two hundred eighteen of this chapter.

6. An employer shall keep and maintain necessary records to comply

with the requirements of this section including, but not limited to, the history of compensation ranges for each job, promotion, or transfer opportunity and the job descriptions for such positions, if such descriptions exist.

7. For the purposes of this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

a. "range of compensation" shall mean the minimum and maximum annual salary or hourly range of compensation for a job, promotion, or transfer opportunity that the employer in good faith believes to be accurate at the time of the posting of an advertisement for such opportunity.

b. "employer" shall mean:

(i) any person, corporation, limited liability company, association, labor organization or entity employing four or more employees in any occupation, industry, trade, business or service, or any agent thereof; and

(ii) any person, corporation, limited liability company, association or entity acting as an employment agent or recruiter, or otherwise connecting applicants with employers, provided that "employer" shall not include a temporary help firm as such term is defined by subdivision five of section nine hundred sixteen of this chapter.

8. The provisions of this section shall not be construed or interpreted to supersede or preempt any provisions of local law, rules, or regulations.

* NB Effective September 17, 2023

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SEE MOST RECENT VERSION BEFORE OR ON:

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SECTION 197

Civil penalty

Labor (LAB) CHAPTER 31, ARTICLE 6

§ 197. Civil penalty. Any employer who fails to pay the wages of his employees or shall differentiate in rate of pay because of protected class status, as provided in this article, shall forfeit to the people of the state the sum of five hundred dollars for each such failure, to be recovered by the commissioner in any legal action necessary, including administrative action or a civil action.