



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6406

LCO No. 3478

03478 _____ LAB

Referred to Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Introduced by:
(LAB)

**AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND
EMPLOYEE RIGHTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2012*) (a) Each employer, at the
2 time of hiring, shall provide notice to each employee (1) of the
3 employee's entitlements and benefits, whether negotiated or statutory,
4 (2) that retaliation in any form by the employer against the employee
5 for requesting to use or using entitlements and benefits, whether
6 negotiated or statutory, is prohibited, and (3) that the employee has a
7 right to file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner for any violation
8 of this section. Employers may comply with the provisions of this
9 section by displaying a poster in a conspicuous place, accessible to
10 employees, at the employer's place of business that contains the
11 information required by this section in both English and Spanish. The
12 Labor Commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with
13 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish additional requirements
14 concerning the means by which employers shall provide such notice.
15 The Labor Commissioner shall administer this section within available
16 appropriations.

17 (b) For the purposes of this section and section 2 of this act, (1)
18 "employee" means any person engaged in service to an employer in the
19 business of the employer, who has worked a minimum of five hundred
20 twenty hours for an employer within the past twelve months and is
21 (A) paid on an hourly basis, or (B) not exempt from the minimum
22 wage and overtime compensation requirements of the Fair Labor
23 Standards Act of 1938 and the regulations promulgated thereunder, as
24 amended from time to time. "Employee" does not include (i) day or
25 temporary workers, and (ii) employees of any constituent unit of the
26 state system of higher education, as defined in section 10a-1 of the
27 general statutes, who are part-time or adjunct faculty members,
28 university assistants working less than twenty hours per work,
29 educational assistants or other part time professional employees; (2)
30 "employer" means any person, firm, business, educational institution,
31 nonprofit agency, corporation, limited liability company or other entity
32 that employs fifty or more persons in the state; (3) "entitlements and
33 benefits, whether negotiated or statutory" means paid sick leave,
34 maternity leave, vacation time, medical coverage, prescription drug
35 coverage, dental coverage, vision coverage, employee discounts,
36 family and medical leave, and worker's compensation benefit; and (4)
37 "retaliatory personnel action" means any termination, suspension,
38 constructive discharge, demotion, unfavorable reassignment, refusal to
39 promote, disciplinary action, warning, whether verbal or written or
40 other adverse employment action taken by an employer against an
41 employee.

42 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2012*) (a) No employer shall take
43 retaliatory personnel action or discriminate against an employee
44 because the employee (1) requests or uses entitlements and benefits,
45 whether negotiated or statutory, in accordance with section 2 of this
46 act, or (2) files a complaint with the Labor Commissioner alleging the
47 employer's violation of section 2 of this act. The Labor Commissioner
48 shall administer this section within available appropriations.

49 (b) Any employer who is found by the Labor Commissioner, by a

50 preponderance of the evidence, to have violated the provisions of
51 section 2 of this act shall be liable to the Labor Department for a civil
52 penalty of six hundred dollars for each violation. The Labor
53 Commissioner may award the employee all appropriate relief,
54 including rehiring or reinstatement to the employee's previous job,
55 payment of back wages and reestablishment of employee benefits to
56 which the employee otherwise would have been eligible if the
57 employee had not been subject to such retaliatory personnel action or
58 discriminated against. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the
59 commissioner may appeal the decisions to the Superior Court in
60 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2012</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2012</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit employers from taking retaliatory action against an employee attempting to use his or her entitlements or benefits, and to require employers to notify employees, at the time of hiring, of the entitlements and benefits they may use and the penalty for an employer who fails to let him or her use them.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]