

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 350

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WALSH.

Read 1st time January 25, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1531S.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 290.400, 290.410, 290.440, and 290.450, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to employment practices relating to gender.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 290.400, 290.410, 290.440, and 290.450, RSMo, are
2 repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections
3 290.400, 290.410, and 290.440, to read as follows:

290.400. As used in sections 290.400 to [290.450] **290.440** the following
2 words have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

3 (1) "Commission", the labor and industrial relations commission of
4 Missouri;

5 (2) "Employee", every woman or man in receipt of or entitled to
6 compensation for labor performed for any employer;

7 (3) "Employer", every person, firm, corporation, agent, manager,
8 representative, contractor, subcontractor, principal or other person having control
9 or direction of any woman or man employed at any labor, or responsible directly
10 or indirectly for the wages of another;

11 (4) ["Female", a woman of eighteen years or over;

12 (5)] "Wage rates" or "wages", [any compensation for labor measured by
13 time, piece, or otherwise] **all compensation in any form that an employer
14 provides to employees in payment for work done or services rendered,
15 including but not limited to base pay, overtime bonuses, stock options,
16 awards or tips, or various forms of nonmonetary compensation if
17 provided in lieu of or in addition to monetary compensation, provided
18 that such compensation has economic value to an employee.**

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

290.410. 1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no employer
2 shall pay any [female in his employ at] **employee** wage rates less than the wage
3 rates paid to [male] employees [in the same establishment for the same quantity
4 and quality of the same classification of work, provided that nothing herein shall
5 prohibit a variation of rates of pay for male and female employees engaged in the
6 same classification of work based upon a difference in seniority, length of service,
7 ability, skill, difference in duties or services performed, difference in the shift or
8 time of day worked, hours of work, or restrictions or prohibitions on lifting or
9 moving objects in excess of specified weight, or other reasonable differentiation,
10 or factors other than sex, when exercised in good faith] **of the opposite gender,**
11 **for equal work, the performance of which requires equal skill, effort,**
12 **and responsibility, and which is performed under similar working**
13 **conditions.**

14 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section,
15 it shall not be unlawful for an employer to pay different wage rates to
16 employees if such payments are made pursuant to:

17 (1) A bona fide seniority or merit system;

18 (2) A system that measures earnings by quantity or quality of
19 production;

20 (3) Any bona fide factor other than gender, provided that wage
21 differentials based on varying market rates for equal jobs shall not be
22 considered differentials based on bona fide factors other than gender;
23 or

24 (4) Bona fide regional economic differentials.

25 3. An employer who is paying wages in violation of this section
26 shall not, in order to comply with this section, reduce the wage of any
27 employee.

28 4. No employer may discharge or take any adverse action or
29 otherwise discriminate against any individual because such individual
30 has:

31 (1) Opposed any act or practice made unlawful by this section;
32 or

33 (2) Testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an
34 investigation, hearing, or other proceeding to enforce this section.

35 5. No employer may discharge or take any adverse action or
36 otherwise discriminate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten, or
37 interfere with any employee because such employee either inquired

38 **about, compared, or otherwise discussed the employee's wages or the**
39 **wages of another employee; or exercised, enjoyed, aided, or encouraged**
40 **any other person to exercise or enjoy any right granted or protected by**
41 **this section.**

290.440. 1. Any employer who violates section 290.410 is liable to the
2 [female] employee affected in the amount of the wages of which the [female]
3 employee is deprived by reason of the violation **and an additional amount in**
4 **compensatory damages, such additional amount not to exceed twice the**
5 **wages awarded.**

6 2. [Any female employee receiving less than the wage to which she is
7 entitled under sections 290.400 to 290.450 may recover in a civil action the
8 balance of the wages, together with the costs of suit, notwithstanding any
9 agreement to work for a lesser wage.] **Any employer who violates subsection**
10 **4 or 5 of section 290.410 is liable to any individual affected in the**
11 **amount of all wages and benefits lost as a result of the retaliation and,**
12 **if awarded, an additional amount of compensatory damages or in an**
13 **amount to be determined by a judge or jury trial.**

14 3. [The burden of proof shall be upon the person bringing the claim to
15 establish that the differentiation in rate of pay is based upon the factor of sex and
16 not upon other differences or factors.] **In the event of a finding that an**
17 **employer has violated this section, a court may enjoin such employer**
18 **from future violations of section 290.410, and may order the employer**
19 **to take such additional steps as are necessary, including**
20 **reclassification of affected workers to ensure an end to the employer's**
21 **gender-based pay practices or, if the employer has engaged in unlawful**
22 **retaliation prohibited herein, the court may order such relief as to**
23 **make the employee whole, including reinstatement.**

24 4. Any employee prevailing in a civil action brought pursuant to
25 sections 290.400 to 290.440, in addition to the remedies set forth in this
26 section, may also recover court costs and reasonable attorney's fees,
27 notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage. Any action
28 brought pursuant to sections 290.400 to 290.440 shall be commenced
29 within two years after the alleged violation occurs or the date of the
30 reasonable discovery of such violation.

[290.450. Any action based upon or arising under sections
2 290.400 to 290.450 shall be instituted in the circuit court within six

3 months after the date of the alleged violation, but in no event shall
4 any employer be liable for any pay due under sections 290.400 to
5 290.450 for more than thirty days prior to receipt by the employer
6 of written notice of claim thereof from the female employee.]

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Unofficial

Bill

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