

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 19, 2003

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 26, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 76

Introduced by Assembly Member Corbett

**(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Jackson, Koretz, and
Steinberg)**

(Principal coauthor: Senator Kuehl)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cohn, Hancock, Laird, Levine,
Lieber, and Yee)**

(Coauthor: Senator Romero)

December 23, 2002

An act to amend Section 12940 of the Government Code, relating to unlawful employment practices.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 76, as amended, Corbett. Employment discrimination.

Existing law makes it an unlawful employment practice for a person, other than a religious association or corporation not organized for private profit, regularly employing one or more persons or regularly receiving the services of one or more persons providing services pursuant to a contract, or any person acting as an agent of such an employer, directly or indirectly, who knows or should have known of harassment of an employee, an applicant, or a person providing services

pursuant to a contract, by an employee, to fail to take immediate and appropriate corrective action and to take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment based upon specified categories from occurring.

Existing law further provides that, without express restriction as to the source of the discrimination or harassment, it is an unlawful employment practice for an employer of 5 or more persons to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring.

This bill would revise the provision summarized in the first paragraph above to include harassment by ~~any person~~ *nonemployees if the employer knows or should have known of the incident and fails to take corrective action.*

The bill would state the Legislature's intent to construe and clarify existing law and reject the interpretation given to existing law by the appellate court in *Salazar v. Diversified Paratransit, Inc.*, a case currently being reviewed by the California Supreme Court.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12940 of the Government Code is
2 amended to read:

3 12940. It shall be an unlawful employment practice, unless
4 based upon a bona fide occupational qualification, or, except
5 where based upon applicable security regulations established by
6 the United States or the State of California:

7 (a) For an employer, because of the race, religious creed, color,
8 national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability,
9 medical condition, marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation of
10 any person, to refuse to hire or employ the person or to refuse to
11 select the person for a training program leading to employment, or
12 to bar or to discharge the person from employment or from a
13 training program leading to employment, or to discriminate
14 against the person in compensation or in terms, conditions, or
15 privileges of employment.

16 (1) This part does not prohibit an employer from refusing to
17 hire or discharging an employee with a physical or mental
18 disability, or subject an employer to any legal liability resulting
19 from the refusal to employ or the discharge of an employee with



1 a physical or mental disability, where the employee, because of his
2 or her physical or mental disability, is unable to perform his or her
3 essential duties even with reasonable accommodations, or cannot
4 perform those duties in a manner that would not endanger his or
5 her health or safety or the health or safety of others even with
6 reasonable accommodations.

7 (2) This part does not prohibit an employer from refusing to
8 hire or discharging an employee who, because of the employee's
9 medical condition, is unable to perform his or her essential duties
10 even with reasonable accommodations, or cannot perform those
11 duties in a manner that would not endanger the employee's health
12 or safety or the health or safety of others even with reasonable
13 accommodations. Nothing in this part shall subject an employer to
14 any legal liability resulting from the refusal to employ or the
15 discharge of an employee who, because of the employee's medical
16 condition, is unable to perform his or her essential duties, or cannot
17 perform those duties in a manner that would not endanger the
18 employee's health or safety or the health or safety of others even
19 with reasonable accommodations.

20 (3) Nothing in this part relating to discrimination on account of
21 marital status shall do either of the following:

22 (A) Affect the right of an employer to reasonably regulate, for
23 reasons of supervision, safety, security, or morale, the working of
24 spouses in the same department, division, or facility, consistent
25 with the rules and regulations adopted by the commission.

26 (B) Prohibit bona fide health plans from providing additional
27 or greater benefits to employees with dependents than to those
28 employees without or with fewer dependents.

29 (4) Nothing in this part relating to discrimination on account of
30 sex shall affect the right of an employer to use veteran status as a
31 factor in employee selection or to give special consideration to
32 Vietnam era veterans.

33 (5) Nothing in this part prohibits an employer from refusing to
34 employ an individual because of his or her age if the law compels
35 or provides for that refusal. Promotions within the existing staff,
36 hiring or promotion on the basis of experience and training,
37 rehiring on the basis of seniority and prior service with the
38 employer, or hiring under an established recruiting program from
39 high schools, colleges, universities, or trade schools do not, in and
40 of themselves, constitute unlawful employment practices.

1 (b) For a labor organization, because of the race, religious
2 creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental
3 disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, or sexual
4 orientation of any person, to exclude, expel or restrict from its
5 membership the person, or to provide only second-class or
6 segregated membership or to discriminate against any person
7 because of the race, religious creed, color, national origin,
8 ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition,
9 marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation of the person in the
10 election of officers of the labor organization or in the selection of
11 the labor organization's staff or to discriminate in any way against
12 any of its members or against any employer or against any person
13 employed by an employer.

14 (c) For any person to discriminate against any person in the
15 selection or training of that person in any apprenticeship training
16 program or any other training program leading to employment
17 because of the race, religious creed, color, national origin,
18 ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition,
19 marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation of the person
20 discriminated against.

21 (d) For any employer or employment agency to print or
22 circulate or cause to be printed or circulated any publication, or to
23 make any non-job-related inquiry of an employee or applicant,
24 either verbal or through use of an application form, that expresses,
25 directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification, or
26 discrimination as to race, religious creed, color, national origin,
27 ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition,
28 marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation, or any intent to make
29 any such limitation, specification or discrimination. Nothing in
30 this part prohibits an employer or employment agency from
31 inquiring into the age of an applicant, or from specifying age
32 limitations, where the law compels or provides for that action.

33 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) or (3), for any
34 employer or employment agency to require any medical or
35 psychological examination of an applicant, to make any medical
36 or psychological inquiry of an applicant, to make any inquiry
37 whether an applicant has a mental disability or physical disability
38 or medical condition, or to make any inquiry regarding the nature
39 or severity of a physical disability, mental disability, or medical
40 condition.



1 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an employer or
2 employment agency may inquire into the ability of an applicant to
3 perform job-related functions and may respond to an applicant's
4 request for reasonable accommodation.

5 (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an employer or
6 employment agency may require a medical or psychological
7 examination or make a medical or psychological inquiry of a job
8 applicant after an employment offer has been made but prior to the
9 commencement of employment duties, provided that the
10 examination or inquiry is job-related and consistent with business
11 necessity and that all entering employees in the same job
12 classification are subject to the same examination or inquiry.

13 (f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), for any employer
14 or employment agency to require any medical or psychological
15 examination of an employee, to make any medical or
16 psychological inquiry of an employee, to make any inquiry
17 whether an employee has a mental disability, physical disability,
18 or medical condition, or to make any inquiry regarding the nature
19 or severity of a physical disability, mental disability, or medical
20 condition.

21 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an employer or
22 employment agency may require any examinations or inquiries
23 that it can show to be job-related and consistent with business
24 necessity. An employer or employment agency may conduct
25 voluntary medical examinations, including voluntary medical
26 histories, which are part of an employee health program available
27 to employees at that worksite.

28 (g) For any employer, labor organization, or employment
29 agency to harass, discharge, expel, or otherwise discriminate
30 against any person because the person has made a report pursuant
31 to Section 11161.8 of the Penal Code that prohibits retaliation
32 against hospital employees who report suspected patient abuse by
33 health facilities or community care facilities.

34 (h) For any employer, labor organization, employment agency,
35 or person to discharge, expel, or otherwise discriminate against
36 any person because the person has opposed any practices
37 forbidden under this part or because the person has filed a
38 complaint, testified, or assisted in any proceeding under this part.



(i) For any person to aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce the doing of any of the acts forbidden under this part, or to attempt to do so.

(j) (1) For an employer, labor organization, employment agency, apprenticeship training program or any training program leading to employment, or any other person, because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation, to harass an employee, an applicant, or a person providing services pursuant to a contract. Harassment of an employee, an applicant, or a person providing services pursuant to a contract by ~~any person~~ *an employee*, other than an agent or supervisor, shall be unlawful if the entity, or its agents or supervisors, knows or should have known of this conduct and fails to take immediate and appropriate corrective action. *An employer may also be responsible for the acts of nonemployees, with respect to harassment of employees, applicants, or persons providing services pursuant to a contract in the workplace, where the employer, or its agents or supervisors, knows or should have known of the conduct and fails to take immediate and appropriate corrective action. In reviewing cases involving the acts of nonemployees, the trier of fact shall consider the extent of the employer's control and any other legal responsibility which the employer may have with respect to the conduct of those nonemployees.* An entity shall take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment from occurring. Loss of tangible job benefits shall not be necessary in order to establish harassment.

(2) The provisions of this subdivision are declaratory of existing law, except for the new duties imposed on employers with regard to harassment.

(3) An employee of an entity subject to this subdivision is personally liable for any harassment prohibited by this section that is perpetrated by the employee, regardless of whether the employer or covered entity knows or should have known of the conduct and fails to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.

(4) (A) For purposes of this subdivision only, "employer" means any person regularly employing one or more persons or regularly receiving the services of one or more persons providing services pursuant to a contract, or any person acting as an agent of

1 an employer, directly or indirectly, the state, or any political or
2 civil subdivision of the state, and cities. The definition of
3 “employer” in subdivision (d) of Section 12926 applies to all
4 provisions of this section other than this subdivision.

5 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for purposes of this
6 subdivision, “employer” does not include a religious association
7 or corporation not organized for private profit, except as provided
8 in Section 12926.2.

9 (C) For purposes of this subdivision, “harassment” because of
10 sex includes sexual harassment, gender harassment, and
11 harassment based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical
12 conditions.

13 (5) For purposes of this subdivision, “a person providing
14 services pursuant to a contract” means a person who meets all of
15 the following criteria:

16 (A) The person has the right to control the performance of the
17 contract for services and discretion as to the manner of
18 performance.

19 (B) The person is customarily engaged in an independently
20 established business.

21 (C) The person has control over the time and place the work is
22 performed, supplies the tools and instruments used in the work,
23 and performs work that requires a particular skill not ordinarily
24 used in the course of the employer’s work.

25 (k) For an employer, labor organization, employment agency,
26 apprenticeship training program, or any training program leading
27 to employment, to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to
28 prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring.

29 (l) For an employer or other entity covered by this part to refuse
30 to hire or employ a person or to refuse to select a person for a
31 training program leading to employment or to bar or to discharge
32 a person from employment or from a training program leading to
33 employment, or to discriminate against a person in compensation
34 or in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of a
35 conflict between the person’s religious belief or observance and
36 any employment requirement, unless the employer or other entity
37 covered by this part demonstrates that it has explored any available
38 reasonable alternative means of accommodating the religious
39 belief or observance, including the possibilities of excusing the
40 person from those duties that conflict with his or her religious



1 belief or observance or permitting those duties to be performed at
2 another time or by another person, but is unable to reasonably
3 accommodate the religious belief or observance without undue
4 hardship on the conduct of the business of the employer or other
5 entity covered by this part. Religious belief or observance, as used
6 in this section, includes, but is not limited to, observance of a
7 Sabbath or other religious holy day or days, and reasonable time
8 necessary for travel prior and subsequent to a religious
9 observance.

10 (m) For an employer or other entity covered by this part to fail
11 to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or
12 mental disability of an applicant or employee. Nothing in this
13 subdivision or in paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (a) shall be
14 construed to require an accommodation that is demonstrated by the
15 employer or other covered entity to produce undue hardship to its
16 operation.

17 (n) For an employer or other entity covered by this part to fail
18 to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with the
19 employee or applicant to determine effective reasonable
20 accommodations, if any, in response to a request for reasonable
21 accommodation by an employee or applicant with a known
22 physical or mental disability or known medical condition.

23 (o) For an employer or other entity covered by this part, to
24 subject, directly or indirectly, any employee, applicant, or other
25 person to a test for the presence of a genetic characteristic.

26 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act
27 to construe and clarify the meaning and effect of existing law and
28 to reject the interpretation given to the law in *Salazar v. Diversified*
29 *Paratransit, Inc.* (2002) 103 Cal.App.4th 131.

