

EARNED SICK TIME ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 338 of 2018

***** 408.967.new THIS NEW SECTION IS EFFECTIVE 91 DAYS AFTER ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2018 REGULAR SESSION SINE DIE *****

***** 408.967.new THIS SECTION IS AMENDED EFFECTIVE 91 DAYS AFTER ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2018 REGULAR SESSION SINE DIE: See 408.967.amended *****

408.967.new Violation of act; actions by employee; enforcement by director; civil remedies; civil fine.

Sec. 7. (1) If an employer violates this act, the employee affected by the violation, at any time within 3 years after the violation or the date when the employee knew of the violation, whichever is later, may do any of the following:

(a) Bring a civil action for appropriate relief, including, but not limited to, payment for used earned sick time; rehiring or reinstatement to the employee's previous job; payment of back wages; reestablishment of employee benefits to which the employee otherwise would have been eligible if the employee had not been subjected to retaliatory personnel action or discrimination; and an equal additional amount as liquidated damages together with costs and reasonable attorney fees as the court allows.

(b) File a claim with the department, which shall investigate the claim. Filing a claim with the department is neither a prerequisite nor a bar to bringing a civil action.

(2) (a) The director shall enforce the provisions of this act. In effectuating such enforcement, the director shall establish a system utilizing multiple means of communication to receive complaints regarding non-compliance with this act and investigate complaints received by the department in a timely manner.

(b) Any person alleging a violation of this chapter shall have the right to file a complaint with the department. The department shall encourage reporting pursuant to this subsection by keeping confidential, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable laws, the name and other identifying information of the employee or person reporting the violation, provided, however, that with the authorization of such person, the department may disclose his or her name and identifying information as necessary to enforce this chapter or for other appropriate purposes.

(c) Upon receiving a complaint alleging a violation of this chapter, the department shall investigate such complaint and attempt to resolve it through mediation between the complainant and the subject of the complaint, or other means. The department shall keep complainants notified regarding the status of their complaint and any resultant investigation. If the department believes that a violation has occurred, it shall issue to the offending person or entity a notice of violation and the relief required of the offending person or entity. The department shall prescribe the form and wording of such notices of violation including any method of appealing the decision of the department.

(d) The department shall have the power to impose penalties and to grant an employee or former employee all appropriate relief including but not limited to payment of all earned sick time improperly withheld, any and all damages incurred by the complainant as the result of violation of this act, back pay and reinstatement in the case of job loss.

(3) If the director determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that an employer violated this act and the department is subsequently unable to obtain voluntary compliance by the employer within a reasonable time, the department shall bring a civil action as provided in subsection (1)(a) on behalf of the employee. The department may investigate and file a civil action under subsection (1)(a) on behalf of all employees that employer who are similarly situated at the same work site and who have not brought a civil action under subsection (1)(a). A contract or agreement between the employer and the employee or any acceptance by the employee of a paid or unpaid leave policy that provides fewer rights or benefits than provided by this act is void and unenforceable.

(4) In addition to liability for civil remedies described in this section, an employer who fails to provide earned sick time in violation of this act or takes retaliatory personnel action against an employee or former employee is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00.

(5) An employer that willfully violates a notice or posting requirement of section 8 is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$100.00 for each separate violation.

History: 2018, Act 338, Eff. (sine die).

Compiler's note: Public Act 338 was proposed by initiative petition pursuant to Const. 1963, art 2, section 9. On September 5, 2018, the initiative petition was approved by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the Senate and an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the House of Representatives, and filed with the Secretary of State on September 5, 2018.