

TITLE XXXI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

CHAPTER 354-A

STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Equal Employment Opportunity

Section 354-A:7

354-A:7 Unlawful Discriminatory Practices. –

It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice:

I. For an employer, because of the age, sex, gender identity, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, religious creed, or national origin of any individual, to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment such individual or to discriminate against such individual in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification. In addition, no person shall be denied the benefit of the rights afforded by this paragraph on account of that person's sexual orientation.

II. For a labor organization, because of the age, sex, gender identity, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, creed, or national origin of any individual, to exclude from full membership rights or to expel from its membership such individual or to discriminate in any way against any of its members or against any employer or any individual employed by an employer, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification. In addition, no person shall be denied the benefit of the rights afforded by this paragraph on account of that person's sexual orientation.

III. For any employer or employment agency to print or circulate or to cause to be printed or circulated any statement, advertisement or publication, or to use any form of application for employment or to make any inquiry or record in connection with employment, which expresses, directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification or discrimination as to age, sex, gender identity, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, religious creed or national origin or any intent to make any such limitation, specification or discrimination in any way on the ground of age, sex, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, religious creed or national origin, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification; provided, however, that nothing in this chapter shall limit an employer after the offer of hire of an individual from inquiring into and keeping records of any existing or pre-existing physical or mental conditions. In addition, no person shall be denied the benefit of the rights afforded by this paragraph on account of that person's sexual orientation.

IV. For any employee to be required, as a condition of employment, to retire upon or before reaching a specified predetermined chronological age, or after completion of a specified number of years of service unless such employee was elected or appointed for a specified term or required to retire pursuant to Pt. II, Art. 78 of the constitution of New Hampshire. It shall not be unlawful for an employer to:

(a) Establish a normal retirement age, based on chronological age or length of service or both, which may be used to govern eligibility for and accrual of pension or other retirement benefits; provided that such normal retirement age shall not be used to justify retirement of or failure to hire any individual; or

(b) Require any individual employee to retire on the basis of a finding that the employee can no longer meet such bona fide, reasonable standards of job performance as the employer may have established.

V. Harassment on the basis of sex constitutes unlawful sex discrimination. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when:

(a) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;

(b) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions

affecting such individual; or

(c) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

VI. (a) For the purposes of this chapter, the word "sex" includes pregnancy and medical conditions which result from pregnancy.

(b) An employer shall permit a female employee to take leave of absence for the period of temporary physical disability resulting from pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions. When the employee is physically able to return to work, her original job or a comparable position shall be made available to her by the employer unless business necessity makes this impossible or unreasonable.

(c) For all other employment related purposes, including receipt of benefits under fringe benefit programs, pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions shall be considered temporary disabilities, and a female employee affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions shall be treated in the same manner as any employee affected by any other temporary disability.

VII. (a) For any employer not to make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of a qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, unless such employer can demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the business of the employer.

(b) For any employer to deny employment opportunities, compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment to a job applicant or employee who is a qualified individual with a disability, if such denial is based on the need of such employer to make reasonable accommodation to the physical or mental impairments of the applicant or employee.

Source. 1992, 224:1. 1997, 108:12. 2006, 181:2, eff. Jan. 1, 2007. 2018, 176:5, eff. July 8, 2018.