Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0412.01 Josh Schultz x5486

HOUSE BILL 24-1095

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lieder and Amabile,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sullivan,

House Committees

Senate Committees

Business Affairs & Labor

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING PROTECTION FOR MINOR WORKERS IN THE "COLORADO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1971".

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill increases penalties for violations of the "Colorado Youth Employment Opportunity Act of 1971" (act) and requires that the penalties be deposited into the wage theft enforcement fund. Entities that violate the act must also pay specified damages to the individual who is aggrieved. The bill eliminates a provision in current law penalizing a person, having legal responsibility for a minor, who knowingly permits

the minor to be employed in violation of the act.

The director of the division of labor standards and statistics (director) is required to include a description of the penalties and damages owed in the written notice issued to an employer if the act is violated.

The division of labor standards and statistics is required to treat all final orders issued for violations of the act as public records and to release information related to a violation to the public upon request pursuant to the "Colorado Open Records Act", unless the director makes a determination that the information is a trade secret.

The director may, or, at the request of the individual aggrieved, must, file a certified copy of a final order for a violation of the act with the clerk of any court having jurisdiction over the parties at any time after the entry of the order.

The bill applies the state's discrimination and retaliation prohibitions to individuals attempting to exercise rights protected by the act and creates a rebuttable presumption of retaliatory action if an entity engages in adverse action against an individual aggrieved within 90 calendar days after the individual aggrieved exercises a right protected by the act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-12-115, **amend** (3)

and (4); and **add** (4.5), (5.5), and (8) as follows:

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8-12-115. Director of division of labor standards and statistics
- powers and duties - public records - filing final orders - rules -

definition. (3) (a) The director shall receive and investigate complaints

7 and may from time to time visit employers at reasonable times and inspect

8 pertinent records to determine compliance with this article ARTICLE 12.

(b) For the purpose of investigating a violation of this article 12, the director may apply the information-gathering

AUTHORIZATIONS DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 1 OF THIS TITLE 8 TO AN

12 EMPLOYER, AN EMPLOYEE, OR OTHER PERSON.

(4) (a) If investigation of any place of employment or complaint discloses a violation of this article, except section 8-12-105 (3) ARTICLE

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12, the director shall give the employer A written notice OF VIOLATION describing the violation, ORDERING MONETARY OR OTHER RELIEF AS APPROPRIATE, and specifying the provisions of this article ARTICLE 12 that such THE employer is allegedly violating VIOLATED. Within ten THIRTY-FIVE days of AFTER receipt of such THE notice of violation, the employer may file a written request for a AN APPEAL hearing, on the issue of whether the violation exists, which hearing shall be conducted in accordance with section 24-4-105, C.R.S. After a hearing concerning a violation of this article, or after the expiration of twenty days after the issuance of a notice of violation during which the employer has neither requested a hearing nor ceased the conduct that constitutes the alleged violation, the director may issue a final order requiring the employer to cease and desist the conduct found to be in violation SECTION 8-4-111.5.

- (b) At any time thereafter AFTER ISSUANCE OF A FINAL ORDER, the director may order the violating employer to pay a penalty of twenty dollars PENALTIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-1-140 (2) FOR EACH OFFENSE. Each day that the conduct constituting the violation is continued after the order is made final, and each minor employed in violation of this article ARTICLE 12, constitutes a separate offense. The order imposing the penalty shall become IS final upon issuance, and the penalty shall be IS due and payable thirty THIRTY-FIVE days after the order assessing the penalty is entered, unless prior to that time the order has been modified or a hearing on the penalty has been requested as provided by section 24-4-105, C.R.S. SECTION 8-4-111.5.
- (c) All penalties imposed by this section shall be collected as provided in section 8-1-142 The division shall collect all penalties IMPOSED BY THIS SECTION AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 8-1-142 AND

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TRANSMIT THE COLLECTED PENALTIES TO THE STATE TREASURER. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL DEPOSIT THE MONEY INTO THE WAGE THEFT ENFORCEMENT FUND CREATED IN SECTION 8-4-113 (3).

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(b) (I) If investigation of any place of employment or complaint discloses a violation of section 8-12-105 (3), the director shall give the employer written notice describing the violation and specifying the provisions of this article that such employer is allegedly violating. Within ten days after receipt of such notice of violation, the employer may file a written request for a hearing on the issue of whether the violation exists, which hearing shall be conducted in accordance with section 24-4-105, C.R.S. After a hearing concerning a violation of section 8-12-105 (3), or after the expiration of twenty days after the issuance of a notice of violation during which the employer has neither requested a hearing nor ceased the conduct which constitutes the alleged violation, the director may issue a final order requiring the employer to cease and desist the conduct found to be in violation. At any time thereafter, the director may order the violating employer to pay a penalty pursuant to subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b). The order imposing the penalty shall become final upon issuance, and the penalty shall be due and payable thirty days after the order assessing the penalty is entered, unless prior to that time the order has been modified or a hearing on the penalty has been requested as provided by section 24-4-105, C.R.S. All penalties imposed by this section shall be collected as provided in section 8-1-142.

(II) Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph (b) shall make the offender liable for administrative fines pursuant to the following penalty schedule:

(A) For a first offense, by a fine of not less than two hundred

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2	(B) For a second offense within six months after the first offense,
3	by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand
4	dollars;
5	(C) For a third or subsequent offense within six months after the
6	first offense, by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars nor more than
7	ten thousand dollars.
8	(4.5) (a) AFTER TWENTY DAYS ELAPSE TO ALLOW AN EMPLOYER
9	TO NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR OF A POTENTIAL TRADE SECRET PURSUANT TO
10	SUBSECTION $(4.5)(a)(II)$ of this section, the division shall treat any
11	FINAL ORDER ISSUED FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE 12 AS A PUBLIC
12	RECORD AND SHALL RELEASE THE INFORMATION RELATED TO THE
13	VIOLATION TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO
14	OPEN RECORDS ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24; EXCEPT THAT:
15	(I) THE DIVISION SHALL REDACT ANY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION
16	PERTAINING TO A MINOR WORKER; AND
17	(II) THE DIVISION SHALL NOT RELEASE INFORMATION RELATED TO
18	A VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE 12 IF THE DIRECTOR MAKES A
19	DETERMINATION THAT THE INFORMATION IS A TRADE SECRET. UPON
20	ISSUING A FINAL ORDER, THE DIRECTOR SHALL NOTIFY THE EMPLOYER OF
21	THE POTENTIAL RELEASE OF THE INFORMATION. THE EMPLOYER MAY,
22	WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE NOTIFICATION, PROVIDE THE DIRECTOR
23	WITH ANY DOCUMENTATION DEMONSTRATING THAT THE INFORMATION, OR
24	SPECIFIC MATTERS INCLUDED IN THE INFORMATION, IS A TRADE SECRET. IF
25	THE DIRECTOR, IN THE DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION, DETERMINES THAT THE
26	INFORMATION, OR ANY PORTION OF THE INFORMATION, IS A TRADE SECRET,
27	THE DIRECTOR SHALL TREAT THE INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL.

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1	(b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (4.5), "TRADE SECRET" HAS THE
2	MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 7-74-102 (4).
3	(5.5) (a) The director may, or, at the request of any
4	INDIVIDUAL AGGRIEVED BY A VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE 12, SHALL, FILE
5	A CERTIFIED COPY OF A FINAL ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE
6	12 WITH THE CLERK OF ANY COURT HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE
7	PARTIES AT ANY TIME AFTER THE ENTRY OF THE ORDER. THE DIRECTOR
8	MAY FILE ONE CERTIFIED COPY OF THE FINAL ORDER FOR ALL AMOUNTS
9	OWED TO, OR FOR OTHER RELIEF FOR, ALL INDIVIDUALS AGGRIEVED.
10	(b) THE CLERK OF THE COURT SHALL RECORD THE FINAL ORDER IN
11	THE JUDGMENT BOOK OF THE COURT AND MAKE AN ENTRY IN THE
12	JUDGMENT DOCKET. UPON RECORDING, THE FINAL ORDER HAS THE EFFECT
13	OF AND MAY BE EXECUTED AS A JUDGMENT OF THE COURT.
14	(c) (I) Upon recording pursuant to subsection (5.5)(b) of
15	THIS SECTION, THE JUDGMENT IS SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT THE ISSUANCE OF
16	WRITS OF GARNISHMENT IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY LAW IN THE CASE
17	OF A JUDGMENT THAT IS WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY UNSATISFIED.
18	(II) THE COURT SHALL MAIL A COPY OF THE JUDGMENT TO ALL
19	PARTIES TO THE MATTER WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER THE DIRECTOR HAS
20	FILED THE ORDER WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT.
21	(8) The director may adopt rules as necessary to
22	IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THIS ARTICLE 12.
23	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 8-12-116 as
24	follows:
25	8-12-116. Penalty and damages for violations. (1) Any person,
26	having legal responsibility for a minor under the age of eighteen years,
27	who knowingly permits such minor to be employed in violation of this

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1	article, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
2	punished by a fine of not less than twenty dollars nor more than one
3	hundred dollars for each offense. INCLUDING ANY FIRM OR CORPORATION,
4	OR ANY AGENT, MANAGER, SUPERINTENDENT, OR FOREPERSON OF ANY
5	FIRM OR CORPORATION, THAT, INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH AN AGENT,
6	SUBAGENT, MANAGER, SUPERINTENDENT, OR FOREPERSON, VIOLATES OR
7	FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS ARTICLE 12 IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING
8	PENALTIES:
9	(a) EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION,
10	A PERSON WHO COMMITS A VIOLATION OF SECTION 8-12-110 OR RULES
11	PROMULGATED UNDER THAT SECTION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A FINE
12	OF NOT LESS THAN TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS BUT NOT MORE THAN FOUR
13	THOUSAND DOLLARS;
14	(b) EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(d) OF THIS SECTION,
15	A PERSON WHO COMMITS A VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE
16	12 OTHER THAN SECTION 8-12-110 SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A FINE OF
17	NOT LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE
18	THOUSAND DOLLARS;
19	(c) A PERSON WHO COMMITS A WILLFUL VIOLATION OF SECTION
20	8-12-110 OR RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THAT SECTION OR A SECOND OR
21	SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION OF SECTION 8-12-110 OR RULES PROMULGATED
22	UNDER THAT SECTION WITHIN FIVE YEARS AFTER THE PERSON'S MOST
23	RECENT VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE 12 SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A FINE
24	OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS BUT NOT MORE THAN TEN
25	THOUSAND DOLLARS; AND
26	(d) A PERSON WHO COMMITS A WILLFUL VIOLATION OF ANY
27	PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE 12 OTHER THAN SECTION 8-12-110 OR A

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1	SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE
2	12 OTHER THAN SECTION 8-12-110 WITHIN FIVE YEARS AFTER THE
3	PERSON'S MOST RECENT VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE 12 SHALL BE
4	REQUIRED TO PAY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS BUT
5	NOT MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS.
6	(2) THE DIVISION SHALL COLLECT ALL PENALTIES IMPOSED BY
7	SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION AS PROVIDED IN SECTION $8-1-142$ and
8	TRANSMIT THE COLLECTED PENALTIES TO THE STATE TREASURER. THE
9	STATE TREASURER SHALL DEPOSIT THE MONEY INTO THE WAGE THEFT
10	ENFORCEMENT FUND CREATED IN SECTION 8-4-113 (3).
11	(3) IN ADDITION TO ANY PENALTIES TO WHICH A PERSON MAY BE
12	SUBJECT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, ANY PERSON,
13	INCLUDING ANY FIRM OR CORPORATION, OR ANY AGENT, MANAGER,
14	SUPERINTENDENT, OR FOREPERSON OF ANY FIRM OR CORPORATION, THAT,
15	INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH AN AGENT, SUBAGENT, FOREPERSON,
16	SUPERINTENDENT, OR MANAGER, VIOLATES OR FAILS TO COMPLY WITH
17	THIS ARTICLE 12 IS LIABLE FOR DAMAGES IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS
18	PAYABLE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL AGGRIEVED:
19	(a) EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS SECTION,
20	NOT LESS THAN SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS BUT NOT MORE THAN
21	TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION OF
22	SECTION 8-12-110 OR RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THAT SECTION;
23	(b) EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(d) OF THIS SECTION,
24	NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO
25	THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS
26	ARTICLE 12 OTHER THAN SECTION 8-12-110;
27	(c) NOT LESS THAN FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS BUT NOT MORE

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1 THAN SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A WILLFUL VIOLATION OF
2 SECTION 8-12-110 OR RULES PROMULGATED UNDER THAT SECTION OR A
3 SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION OF SECTION 8-12-110 OR RULES
4 PROMULGATED UNDER THAT SECTION WITHIN FIVE YEARS AFTER THE
5 PERSON'S MOST RECENT VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE 12; OR

- (d) Not less than two thousand dollars but not more than six thousand dollars for a willful violation of any provision of this article 12 other than section 8-12-110 or a second or subsequent violation of any provision of this article 12 other than section 8-12-110 within five years after the person's most recent violation of this article 12.
 - (4) ALL DAMAGES THAT A PERSON IS ORDERED TO PAY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION MUST BE PAID TO THE PERSON AGGRIEVED UNLESS THAT PERSON, AFTER REASONABLE AND DILIGENT EFFORT BY THE DIRECTOR, CANNOT BE FOUND, IN WHICH CASE THE DAMAGES MUST BE PAID TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL DEPOSIT THE MONEY INTO THE WAGE THEFT ENFORCEMENT FUND CREATED IN SECTION 8-4-113 (3).
 - (2) (5) IN ADDITION TO ANY PENALTIES OR DAMAGES TO WHICH A PERSON MAY BE SUBJECT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OR (3) OF THIS SECTION, any person, firm, or corporation, or any agent, manager, superintendent, or foreman of any firm or corporation, who, by himself or herself ONESELF or through an agent, subagent, foreman, superintendent, or manager, knowingly violates or knowingly fails to comply with any of the provisions of this article 12 is guilty of COMMITS a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty TWO HUNDRED dollars nor more than one FIVE

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1	hundred dollars for each offense. Upon conviction of a second or
2	subsequent offense, such person shall be punished by a fine of not less
3	than one FIVE hundred dollars nor more than five hundred TWO
4	THOUSAND dollars.
5	(6) On January 1, 2026, and on January 1 of each year
6	THEREAFTER, THE DIVISION SHALL INCREASE THE PENALTY AND DAMAGE
7	AMOUNTS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION FOR INFLATION, IF ANY. THE
8	DIVISION MAY ROUND THE ADJUSTED AMOUNT UPWARD TO THE NEAREST
9	DOLLAR. INFLATION IS MEASURED BY THE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE
10	IN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S BUREAU OF LABOR
11	STATISTICS CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, OR A SUCCESSOR INDEX, FOR
12	Denver-Aurora-Lakewood for all items paid by urban
13	CONSUMERS. THE DIRECTOR SHALL PUBLISH UPDATED PENALTY AND
14	DAMAGE AMOUNTS ANNUALLY.
15	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 8-12-118 as
16	follows:
17	8-12-118. Protection from retaliation - rebuttable presumption
18	of retaliation. (1) The retaliation protections described in Section
19	8-4-120 PROTECT AN INDIVIDUAL ATTEMPTING TO EXERCISE ANY RIGHT
20	PROTECTED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 12.
21	(2) IF A PERSON, INCLUDING ANY FIRM OR CORPORATION, OR ANY
22	AGENT, MANAGER, SUPERINTENDENT, OR FOREPERSON OF ANY FIRM OR
23	CORPORATION, INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH AN AGENT, SUBAGENT,
24	MANAGER, SUPERINTENDENT, OR FOREPERSON, TAKES A DISCIPLINARY OR
25	ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL AGGRIEVED BY A VIOLATION OF
26	THIS ARTICLE 12 WITHIN NINETY CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL
27	AGGRIEVED EXERCISES A RIGHT PROTECTED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 12,

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1	THERE IS A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION THAT THE ACTION WAS
2	RETALIATORY.
3	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-4-113, amend
4	(3)(a), (4)(a) introductory portion, and (5)(a) as follows:
5	8-4-113. Fines pursuant to enforcement - wage theft
6	enforcement fund - created - administrative lien and levy of employer
7	assets - wage claim payments from the fund - definition - rules.
8	(3) (a) The division shall transmit all fines collected for the state pursuant
9	to this section or section 8-1-114 (2), 8-1-116 (2), 8-1-117 (2), or 8-1-140
10	(2), 8-12-115 (4)(c), OR 8-12-116 (2) OR (4) to the state treasurer, who
11	shall credit the money to the wage theft enforcement fund, which fund is
12	created and referred to in this section as the "fund". The money in the
13	fund may be used by the division to make payments to employees for
14	unpaid liabilities for wage law violations pursuant to subsection (5) of
15	this section and for the division's direct and indirect costs associated with
16	implementing this article 4.
17	(4) (a) On or after January 1, 2023, if an employer fails to pay
18	wages determined to be due to the employer's employees or fines or
19	penalties determined to be due pursuant to this article 4 OR ARTICLE 6 OR
20	$12\mathrm{of}$ this title $8\mathrm{or}$ other articles authorizing investigation of
21	ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS, within sixty days after
22	receiving a written employee request or upon its own initiative, the
23	division may issue a notice of administrative lien and levy to the
24	employer or any other person that has possession, custody, or control of
25	the employer's assets. The division may issue the notice of administrative
26	lien and levy when an employer is past due on paying wages determined
27	to be due to its employees and any fines or penalties determined to be due

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1	pursuant to this article 4 OR ARTICLE 6 OR 12 OF THIS TITLE 8 without an
2	order staying or reversing the applicable deadline for payment. The notice
3	must include the following statements and information:
4	(5) (a) On and after April 1, 2024, if an employer fails to pay an
5	employee an amount of wages, or compensation, OR OTHER MONETARY
6	RELIEF owed the employee, as determined by the division pursuant to
7	section 8-4-111 (2)(c) This article 4 or article 6 or 12 of this title
8	8 or as decided by a hearing officer pursuant to section 8-4-111.5, within
9	six months after the division's determination, the hearing officer's
10	decision, or the expiration of any order from the division, the hearing
11	officer, or a court staying or postponing the employer's payment
12	obligation, whichever is later, the division may disburse the amount of
13	wages, or compensation, OR OTHER MONETARY RELIEF determined to be
14	owed the employee, subject to available resources in the fund and the
15	division's prioritization, from the fund to the employee.
16	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-4-120, amend
17	(1)(a) as follows:
18	8-4-120. Discrimination and retaliation prohibited - employee
19	protections - criminal penalties - civil remedies. (1) An employer shall
20	not intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, discharge, or in any
21	manner discriminate or retaliate against any employee who has:
22	(a) Filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any
23	proceeding under this article 4 or any other law or rule related to wages,
24	or hours, OR EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS; or
25	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-6-111, amend (2)
26	as follows:
27	8-6-111. Director to review report. (2) After publication of

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notice and the meeting, the director if so desired, may make and render such ISSUE an order as may be proper or necessary to adopt the recommendations and carry the same THEM into effect and TO require all employees in the occupation directly affected thereby BY THE RECOMMENDATIONS to preserve and comply with such THE recommendations and order. Such THE order is BECOMES effective thirty days after it is made. and rendered and shall be in full force and effect on and after that day. After the order is effective, it is unlawful for any employer to violate or disregard any of the terms of the order or to employ any worker in any occupation covered by the order at lower wages or under other conditions than authorized or permitted by the order. The director shall, as far as is practicable, mail a copy of any such order to every employer affected thereby; BY THE ORDER, and every employer affected by the order shall keep a copy thereof OF THE ORDER posted in a conspicuous place in such THE employer's establishment. Such THE order shall MUST include a notice of the contents of sections 8-12-105 (3), 8-12-115 (4)(b)(II), and 8-12-116 (2) 8-12-116, AND *8-12-118*. SECTION 7. Applicability. This act applies to conduct occurring

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on or after the effective date of this act.

Safety clause. The general assembly finds, SECTION 8. determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

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