AN ACT

CONCERNING EMPLOYER ACCESS TO PERSONAL INFORMATION THROUGH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 8-2-127 as follows:

8-2-127.  Prohibitions of employer - requiring access to personal electronic communication devices - definitions - rules.  (1)  As used in this section:

(a) "APPLICANT" MEANS AN APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT.

(b) "ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE" MEANS A DEVICE THAT USES ELECTRONIC SIGNALS TO CREATE, TRANSMIT, AND RECEIVE INFORMATION, INCLUDING COMPUTERS, TELEPHONES, PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS, AND OTHER SIMILAR DEVICES.

(c) "EMPLOYER" MEANS A PERSON ENGAGED IN A BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, PROFESSION, TRADE, OR OTHER ENTERPRISE IN THE STATE OR A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT. "EMPLOYER" INCLUDES AN AGENT, A REPRESENTATIVE, OR A DESIGNEE OF THE EMPLOYER. "EMPLOYER" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, COUNTY CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENTS, OR ANY STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

(2) (a) AN EMPLOYER MAY NOT SUGGEST, REQUEST, OR REQUIRE THAT AN EMPLOYEE OR APPLICANT DISCLOSE, OR CAUSE AN EMPLOYEE OR APPLICANT TO DISCLOSE, ANY USER NAME, PASSWORD, OR OTHER MEANS FOR ACCESSING THE

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.
EMPLOYEE’S OR APPLICANT’S PERSONAL ACCOUNT OR SERVICE THROUGH THE
EMPLOYEE’S OR APPLICANT’S PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE. AN
EMPLOYER SHALL NOT COMPEL AN EMPLOYEE OR APPLICANT TO ADD ANYONE,
INCLUDING THE EMPLOYER OR HIS OR HER AGENT, TO THE EMPLOYEE’S OR
APPLICANT’S LIST OF CONTACTS ASSOCIATED WITH A SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT OR
REQUIRE, REQUEST, SUGGEST, OR CAUSE AN EMPLOYEE OR APPLICANT TO CHANGE
PRIVACY SETTINGS ASSOCIATED WITH A SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT.

(b) Paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) does not prohibit an employer
from requiring an employee to disclose any user name, password, or
other means for accessing nonpersonal accounts or services that
provide access to the employer’s internal computer or information
systems.

(3) An employer shall not:

(a) Discharge, discipline, or otherwise penalize or threaten to
discharge, discipline, or otherwise penalize an employee for an employee’s
refusal to disclose any information specified in paragraph (a) of
subsection (2) of this section or refusal to add the employer to the list
of the employee’s contacts or to change the privacy settings associated
with a social media account; or

(b) Fail or refuse to hire an applicant because the applicant refuses to
disclose any information specified in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of
this section or refuses to add the employer to the applicant’s list of
contacts or to change the privacy settings associated with a social
media account.

(4) This section does not prevent an employer from:

(a) Conducting an investigation to ensure compliance with applicable
securities or financial law or regulatory requirements based on the
receipt of information about the use of a personal web site, internet web
site, web-based account, or similar account by an employee for business
purposes; or

(b) Investigating an employee’s electronic communications based on the
receipt of information about the unauthorized downloading of an
employer’s proprietary information or financial data to a personal web
site, internet web site, web-based account, or similar account by an
employee.

(5) A person who is injured by a violation of this section may file a
complaint with the department of labor and employment. The department
shall investigate the complaint and issue findings thirty days after a
hearing. The department may promulgate rules regarding penalties that
include a fine of up to one thousand dollars for the first offense and a
fine not to exceed five thousand dollars for each subsequent offense.

(6) Nothing in this section prohibits an employer from enforcing
EXISTING PERSONNEL POLICIES THAT DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THIS SECTION.

(7) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PERMITS AN EMPLOYEE TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION THAT IS CONFIDENTIAL UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAW OR PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the employment support fund created in section 8-77-109 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, not otherwise appropriated, to the department of labor and employment, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, the sum of $23,064 and 0.3 FTE, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for allocation to the division of labor related to the implementation of this act.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 11, 2013