

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to discrimination in labor and  
 3           employment; creating the "Senator Helen Gordon Davis  
 4           Fair Pay Protection Act"; amending s. 448.07, F.S.;  
 5           defining terms; prohibiting an employer from providing  
 6           less favorable employment opportunities to employees  
 7           based on their sex; providing exceptions; revising  
 8           applicability; providing civil penalties; amending s.  
 9           448.102, F.S.; prohibiting an employer from taking  
 10          certain employment actions against employees; creating  
 11          s. 448.111, F.S.; prohibiting an employer from  
 12          engaging in certain activities relating to wages and  
 13          benefits; prohibiting an employer from requiring  
 14          employees to sign certain waivers and documents;  
 15          providing applicability; authorizing an employer to  
 16          confirm wage or salary history under certain  
 17          conditions; providing an effective date.

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 19   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 21           Section 1.   This act may be cited as the "Senator Helen  
 22           Gordon Davis Fair Pay Protection Act."

23           Section 2.   Section 448.07, Florida Statutes, is reordered  
 24           and amended to read:

25           448.07   Wage rate discrimination based on sex prohibited.-

26 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, unless the  
27 context or subject matter clearly requires otherwise, the term  
28 ~~following terms shall have the meanings as defined in this~~  
29 ~~section:~~

30 (a) "Business necessity" means an overriding legitimate  
31 business purpose that relies on a bona fide factor, as described  
32 in subparagraph (2) (a)4., to effectively fulfill such business  
33 purpose.

34 ~~(b) (a)~~ "Employee" means any individual employed by an  
35 employer, including individuals employed by the state or any of  
36 its political subdivisions or instrumentalities of subdivisions.

37 ~~(c) (b)~~ "Employer" means any person who employs two or more  
38 employees.

39 (d) "Less favorable employment opportunity" means:

40 1. Assigning or directing an employee to a position or  
41 career track in which the work performed requires substantially  
42 less skill, effort, and responsibility than the work performed  
43 by the majority of individuals in the employee's same occupation  
44 and labor market area;

45 2. Failing to provide an employee with information about  
46 promotions or advancement in the full range of career tracks  
47 offered by the employer;

48 3. Assigning the employee work less likely to lead to a  
49 promotion or career advancement opportunity; or

50 4. Limiting or depriving an employee of a promotion or

51 career advancement opportunity that would otherwise be available  
 52 to the employee but for the employee's sex.

53 (g)-(e) "Wages" means and includes all compensation paid by  
 54 an employer or the employer's ~~his or her~~ agent for the  
 55 performance of service by an employee, including the cash value  
 56 of all compensation paid in any medium other than cash.

57 (e)-(d) "Rate" with reference to wages means the basis of  
 58 compensation for services by an employee for an employer and  
 59 includes compensation based on time spent in the performance of  
 60 such services, on the number of operations accomplished, or on  
 61 the quality produced or handled.

62 (f)-(e) "Unpaid wages" means the difference between the  
 63 wages actually paid to an employee and the wages required to be  
 64 paid to an employee pursuant to subsection (3).

65 (2) DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ~~BASIS OF~~ SEX PROHIBITED.-

66 (a) An ~~No~~ employer may not provide a less favorable  
 67 employment opportunity to an employee based on the employee's  
 68 ~~shall discriminate between employees on the basis of sex or pay~~  
 69 the employee by paying wages to employees at a rate less than  
 70 the rate the employer pays an employee ~~at which he or she pays~~  
 71 ~~wages to employees~~ of the opposite sex for substantially similar  
 72 equal work on a job, ~~jobs~~ the performance of which requires  
 73 equal skill, effort, and responsibility, and which is ~~are~~  
 74 performed under similar working conditions, except when the  
 75 employer demonstrates that the entire wage differential is based

76 on one or more of the following reasonably applied factors ~~when~~  
 77 ~~such payment is made pursuant to:~~

78 1. A seniority system;

79 2. A merit system;

80 3. A system that ~~which~~ measures earnings by quantity or  
 81 quality of production; or

82 4. A bona fide differential based on any reasonable factor  
 83 other than sex, including, but not limited to, education,  
 84 training, or experience. This subparagraph applies only if the  
 85 employer demonstrates that the factor is not based on, or  
 86 derived from, a sex-based wage differential; is job-related with  
 87 respect to the position in question; and is consistent with a  
 88 business necessity. This subparagraph does not apply if the  
 89 employee demonstrates that an alternative business practice  
 90 exists that would serve the same business purpose without  
 91 producing the wage differential.

92 (b) An employer who is paying a wage in violation of this  
 93 section may not reduce another employee's wage to comply with  
 94 this section ~~when exercised in good faith.~~

95 ~~(c)(b)~~ A ~~No~~ person may not shall cause or attempt to cause  
 96 an employer to discriminate against an ~~any~~ employee in violation  
 97 of ~~the provisions of~~ this section.

98 (3) CIVIL ACTION FOR UNPAID WAGES.—Any employer or person  
 99 who violates ~~the provisions of~~ this section is liable to the  
 100 employee for the amount of the difference between the amount the

101 employee was paid and the amount he or she should have been paid  
102 under this section, plus liquidated damages. ~~Nothing in this~~  
103 ~~section allows a claimant to recover more than an amount equal~~  
104 ~~to his or her unpaid wages while so employed for 1 year prior to~~  
105 ~~the filing of the claim.~~ An action to recover such liability may  
106 be maintained in any court of competent jurisdiction by one or  
107 more employees on their own behalf or on behalf of other  
108 employees similarly situated ~~the aggrieved employee~~ within 3  
109 years ~~6 months~~ after the date of the alleged violation  
110 ~~termination of employment.~~ For purposes of this subsection, a  
111 violation occurs when a discriminatory compensation decision or  
112 other practice is adopted, when an employee becomes subject to a  
113 discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, or when  
114 an employee is affected by the application of a discriminatory  
115 compensation decision or other practice, including each time  
116 wages are paid, resulting in whole or in part from such a  
117 decision or other practice. The court in such action may award  
118 to the prevailing party costs of the action and a reasonable  
119 attorney ~~attorney's~~ fee.

120 (4) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

121 (a) An employer who violates this section is subject to a  
122 civil penalty:

- 123 1. Not to exceed \$2,500 for a first violation.  
124 2. Not to exceed \$3,000 for a second violation.  
125 3. Not to exceed \$5,000 for a third or subsequent

126 | violation.

127 |       (b) In determining the amount of a civil penalty to be  
 128 | assessed under paragraph (a), a court of competent jurisdiction  
 129 | shall consider the severity of the violation ~~Nothing in this~~  
 130 | ~~section or in s. 725.07, relating to discrimination based on sex~~  
 131 | ~~in providing equal pay for equal services performed, is~~  
 132 | ~~applicable to any employer, labor organization or member~~  
 133 | ~~thereof, or employee whose employer is subject to the federal~~  
 134 | ~~Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended.~~

135 |       Section 3. Section 448.102, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 136 | to read:

137 |       448.102 Prohibitions.—An employer may not take any  
 138 | retaliatory or discriminatory personnel action against an  
 139 | employee because the employee has:

140 |       (1) Disclosed, or threatened to disclose, to any  
 141 | appropriate governmental agency, under oath, in writing, an  
 142 | activity, policy, or practice of the employer that is in  
 143 | violation of a law, rule, or regulation. However, this  
 144 | subsection does not apply unless the employee has, in writing,  
 145 | brought the activity, policy, or practice to the attention of a  
 146 | supervisor or the employer and has afforded the employer a  
 147 | reasonable opportunity to correct the activity, policy, or  
 148 | practice.

149 |       (2) Provided information to, or testified before, any  
 150 | appropriate governmental agency, person, or entity conducting an

151 investigation, hearing, or inquiry into an alleged violation of  
152 a law, rule, or regulation by the employer.

153 (3) Objected to, or refused to participate in, any  
154 activity, policy, or practice of the employer which is in  
155 violation of a law, rule, or regulation.

156 (4) (a) Discussed or disclosed the employee's own wages;

157 (b) Inquired about another employee's wages;

158 (c) Discussed another employee's wages, if such wages have  
159 been voluntarily disclosed by such employee;

160 (d) Requested that the employer provide a reason for the  
161 amount of the employee's own wages; or

162 (e) Testified or will testify, assisted, or participated  
163 in an investigation or proceeding under this section.

164 Section 4. Section 448.111, Florida Statutes, is created  
165 to read:

166 448.111 Prohibited employer activities related to wages  
167 and benefits.—

168 (1) An employer may not:

169 (a) Rely on the wage or salary history of a current,  
170 former, or prospective employee in determining the wages or  
171 salary for such individual.

172 (b) Orally or in writing seek, request, or require the  
173 wage or salary history from a current, former, or prospective  
174 employee as a condition of being interviewed, as a condition of  
175 continuing to be considered for an offer of employment, or as a

176 condition of employment or promotion.

177 (c) Orally or in writing seek, request, or require the  
178 wage or salary history of a current, former, or prospective  
179 employee from a current or former employer except as provided in  
180 subsection (3).

181 (d) Retaliate against or refuse to interview, hire,  
182 promote, or otherwise employ a current, former, or prospective  
183 employee:

184 1. Based upon prior wage or salary history.

185 2. Because the current, former, or prospective employee  
186 did not provide wage or salary history in accordance with this  
187 section.

188 3. Because the current, former, or prospective employee  
189 filed a complaint alleging a violation of this section.

190 (e) Prohibit an employee from:

191 1. Discussing or disclosing the employee's own wages;

192 2. Inquiring about another employee's wages;

193 3. Discussing another employee's wages, if such wages have  
194 been voluntarily disclosed by such employee; or

195 4. Requesting that the employer provide a reason for the  
196 amount of the employee's own wages.

197 (f) Require an employee to sign a waiver or any other  
198 document that prohibits the employee from:

199 1. Discussing or disclosing the employee's own wages;

200 2. Inquiring about another employee's wages; or



201        3. Discussing another employee's wages, if such wages have  
202 been voluntarily disclosed by such employee.

203        (2) This section does not prevent a current, former, or  
204 prospective employee from voluntarily disclosing wage or salary  
205 history, including, but not limited to, for the purposes of  
206 negotiating wages or salary.

207        (3) An employer may confirm wage or salary history only  
208 if, at the time an offer of employment with compensation is  
209 made, the prospective employee responds to the offer by  
210 providing prior wage information to support a wage higher than  
211 that offered by the employer.

212        Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.