

(II) THE EMPLOYEE RESIDES; OR

(III) THE PROVIDER MAINTAINS ITS PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN THE STATE.

(4) THE ACTION SHALL BE BROUGHT WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION OR WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE EMPLOYEE FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(5) IN ANY ACTION BROUGHT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, A COURT MAY:

(I) ISSUE AN INJUNCTION TO RESTRAIN CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION;

(II) REINSTATE THE EMPLOYEE TO THE SAME OR AN EQUIVALENT POSITION HELD BEFORE THE VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

(III) REMOVE ANY ADVERSE PERSONNEL RECORD ENTRIES BASED ON OR RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

(IV) REINSTATE FULL FRINGE BENEFITS AND SENIORITY RIGHTS;

(V) REQUIRE COMPENSATION FOR LOST WAGES, BENEFITS, AND OTHER REMUNERATION; AND

(VI) ASSESS REASONABLE ATTORNEYS FEES AND OTHER LITIGATION EXPENSES AGAINST:

1. THE PROVIDER, IF THE EMPLOYEE PREVAILS; OR

2. THE EMPLOYEE, IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT THE ACTION WAS BROUGHT BY THE EMPLOYEE IN BAD FAITH AND WITHOUT BASIS IN LAW OR FACT.

~~(5)~~ (6) AN EMPLOYER A PROVIDER SHALL:

(I) CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAY NOTICES OF ITS EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS UNDER THIS SECTION SUBSECTION; AND

(II) USE APPROPRIATE MEANS TO INFORM ITS EMPLOYEES OF THE PROTECTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SUBSECTION.

~~(6) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO CONTRAVENE THE HEALTH CARE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION PROVISIONS OF TITLE 1, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall:

(1) establish a task force composed of all interested parties for the purpose of consolidating departmental authority over fraud, waste, and abuse by reviewing Maryland laws governing the Department, and regulations issued by the