

~~EMPLOYEE SOLELY BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEE EXERCISED RIGHTS GRANTED UNDER THIS TITLE, THE EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED TO SUE TO RECOVER TREBLE THE AMOUNT OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE RATE REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE AND THE AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE EMPLOYEE.~~

(2) A DETERMINATION BY THE COMMISSIONER THAT AN EMPLOYER IS REQUIRED TO MAKE RESTITUTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE AN EMPLOYEE FROM FILING AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION.

(B) (1) AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION IS CONSIDERED TO BE A SUIT FOR WAGES.

(2) A JUDGMENT IN AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL HAVE THE SAME FORCE AND EFFECT AS ANY OTHER JUDGMENT FOR WAGES.

(C) THE FAILURE OF AN EMPLOYEE TO PROTEST ORALLY OR IN WRITING THE PAYMENT OF A WAGE THAT IS LESS THAN THE WAGE RATE REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE IS NOT A BAR TO RECOVERY IN AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION.

~~(D) IN ADDITION TO DAMAGES UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT MAY AWARD AN EMPLOYEE WHO SUCCESSFULLY COLLECTS WAGES UNDER THIS SECTION THE REASONABLE COSTS OF FILING THE LAWSUIT, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES.~~

18-110.

(A) AN EMPLOYER MAY NOT RETALIATE AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE ~~SOLELY~~ BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEE EXERCISES THE EMPLOYEE'S RIGHTS UNDER THIS TITLE.

(B) AN EMPLOYER WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR BOTH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Department of Legislative Services shall conduct a study of the fiscal and economic impacts of this Act on the public and private sectors.

(b) (1) In conducting this study, the Department shall consult with and obtain all necessary and appropriate information from the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, the Office of the Attorney General, local governments, and other appropriate units and persons.

(2) Each unit of the Executive Branch of State government and each unit of local government shall fully cooperate with the Department of Legislative Services and its employees and agents in the activities necessary or helpful in fulfilling the requirements of this section.

(3) Notwithstanding Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article or any other law, each governmental unit that is requested to provide information to the Department of Legislative Services in furtherance of this section shall provide the information promptly and without the necessity of further authorization.