

CHAPTER 139

AN ACT

HB 2341

Relating to reasonable accommodation for pregnancy-related conditions; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 659A.885.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 4 of this 2019 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter 659A.

SECTION 2. For purposes of section 3 of this 2019 Act, reasonable accommodation may include, but need not be limited to:

- (1) Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices;
- (2) More frequent or longer break periods or periodic rest;
- (3) Assistance with manual labor; or
- (4) Modification of work schedules or job assignments.

SECTION 3. (1) It is an unlawful employment practice for an employer, because of known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition, including but not limited to lactation, of a job applicant or an employee, to:

(a) Deny employment opportunities to an applicant or employee if the denial is based on the need of the employer to make reasonable accommodation to the known limitations.

(b) Fail or refuse to make reasonable accommodation to the known limitations, unless the employer can demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the business of the employer.

(c) Take an adverse employment action or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an applicant or an employee, with respect to hire or tenure, or any other term or condition of employment, because the applicant or employee has inquired about, requested or used a reasonable accommodation under this section.

(d) Require an applicant or an employee to accept a reasonable accommodation that is unnecessary for the applicant or the employee to perform the essential duties of the job or to accept a reasonable accommodation if the applicant or employee does not have a known limitation.

(e) Require an employee to take family leave under ORS 659A.150 to 659A.186, or any other leave, if the employer can make reasonable accommodation to the known limitations.

(2)(a) An employer shall post signs that provide notice informing employees of the employment protections under this section, including the right to be free from discrimination because of pregnancy, childbirth and related medical

conditions, and the right to reasonable accommodation under this section.

(b) The employer shall post the signs in a conspicuous and accessible location in or about the premises where employees work.

(c) In addition to posting the signs, the employer shall provide a written copy of the notice to:

(A) A new employee, at the time of hire;
(B) Existing employees, within 180 days after the effective date of this 2019 Act; and

(C) An employee who informs the employer of the employee's pregnancy, within 10 days after the employer receives the information.

(3) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries shall develop training and education materials that the Bureau of Labor and Industries may use to train and educate employers and employees regarding the obligations, rights and protections provided in ORS 659A.030 and under this section.

(4)(a) For purposes of this section, a reasonable accommodation imposes an undue hardship on the operation of the business of an employer if the reasonable accommodation requires significant difficulty or expense.

(b) Whether a reasonable accommodation requires significant difficulty or expense shall be determined by considering the factors provided in ORS 659A.121 (2).

(5) An employee who alleges a violation of this section may bring a civil action under ORS 659A.885 or may file a complaint with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries in the manner provided by ORS 659A.820.

(6)(a) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt, limit, diminish or otherwise affect any provision of state or federal law relating to discrimination because of sex.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the remedies or rights under federal or state law that provide greater or equal protection for employees who are affected by pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition.

SECTION 4. The requirements of section 3 of this 2019 Act apply only to employers who employ six or more persons.

SECTION 5. ORS 659A.885, as amended by section 9, chapter 197, Oregon Laws 2017, and section 13, chapter 691, Oregon Laws 2017, is amended to read:

659A.885. (1) Any person claiming to be aggrieved by an unlawful practice specified in subsection (2) of this section may file a civil action in circuit court. In any action under this subsection, the court may order injunctive relief and any other equitable relief that may be appropriate, including but not limited to reinstatement or the hiring of employees with or without back pay. A court may order back pay in an action under this subsection only for the two-year period immediately preceding

the filing of a complaint under ORS 659A.820 with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, or if a complaint was not filed before the action was commenced, the two-year period immediately preceding the filing of the action. In any action under this subsection, the court may allow the prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section:

(a) The judge shall determine the facts in an action under this subsection; and

(b) Upon any appeal of a judgment in an action under this subsection, the appellate court shall review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (3).

(2) An action may be brought under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of:

(a) ORS 10.090, 10.092, 25.337, 25.424, 171.120, 408.230, 408.237 (2), 475B.281, 476.574, 652.020, 652.220, 652.355, 653.060, 653.263, 653.265, 653.547, 653.549, 653.601 to 653.661, 659.852, 659A.030, 659A.040, 659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.063, 659A.069, 659A.082, 659A.088, 659A.103 to 659A.145, 659A.150 to 659A.186, 659A.194, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.218, 659A.228, 659A.230, 659A.233, 659A.236, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 659A.277, 659A.290, 659A.300, 659A.306, 659A.309, 659A.315, 659A.318, 659A.320, 659A.355 or 659A.421 **or section 3 of this 2019 Act**; or

(b) ORS 653.470, except an action may not be brought for a claim relating to ORS 653.450.

(3) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 25.337, 25.424, 652.220, 652.355, 653.547, 653.549, 659.852, 659A.030, 659A.040, 659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.069, 659A.082, 659A.103 to 659A.145, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.228, 659A.230, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 659A.290, 659A.318, 659A.355 or 659A.421:

(a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater, and punitive damages;

(b) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury;

(c) Upon appeal of any judgment finding a violation, the appellate court shall review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1); and

(d) Any attorney fee agreement shall be subject to approval by the court.

(4) Notwithstanding ORS 31.730, in an action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 652.220, the court may award punitive damages if:

(a) It is proved by clear and convincing evidence that an employer has engaged in fraud, acted with malice or acted with willful and wanton misconduct; or

(b) An employer was previously adjudicated in a proceeding under this section or under ORS 659A.850 for a violation of ORS 652.220.

(5) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 653.060 **or section 3 of this 2019 Act**, the court may award, in

addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater.

(6) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 171.120, 476.574 or 659A.218, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, compensatory damages or \$250, whichever is greater.

(7) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 10.090 or 10.092, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, a civil penalty in the amount of \$720.

(8) Any individual against whom any distinction, discrimination or restriction on account of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status or age, if the individual is 18 years of age or older, has been made by any place of public accommodation, as defined in ORS 659A.400, by any employee or person acting on behalf of the place or by any person aiding or abetting the place or person in violation of ORS 659A.406 may bring an action against the operator or manager of the place, the employee or person acting on behalf of the place or the aider or abettor of the place or person. Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, in an action under this subsection:

(a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, compensatory and punitive damages;

(b) The operator or manager of the place of public accommodation, the employee or person acting on behalf of the place, and any aider or abettor shall be jointly and severally liable for all damages awarded in the action;

(c) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury;

(d) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff;

(e) The court may award reasonable attorney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a defendant who prevails only if the court determines that the plaintiff had no objectively reasonable basis for asserting a claim or no reasonable basis for appealing an adverse decision of a trial court; and

(f) Upon any appeal of a judgment under this subsection, the appellate court shall review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1).

(9) When the commissioner or the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance to the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, or that a group of persons has been denied any of the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, the commissioner or the Attorney General may file a civil action on behalf of the aggrieved persons in the same manner as a person or group of persons may file a civil action under this section. In a civil action filed under this subsection, the court may assess against the respondent, in ad-

dition to the relief authorized under subsections (1) and (3) of this section, a civil penalty:

(a) In an amount not exceeding \$50,000 for a first violation; and

(b) In an amount not exceeding \$100,000 for any subsequent violation.

(10) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or alleging discrimination under federal housing law, when the commissioner is pursuing the action on behalf of an aggrieved complainant, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees to the commissioner if the commissioner prevails in the action. The court may award reasonable attorney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a defendant that prevails in the action if the court determines that the commissioner had no objectively reasonable basis for asserting the claim or for appealing an adverse decision of the trial court.

(11) In an action under subsection (1) or (9) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or discrimination under federal housing law:

(a) "Aggrieved person" includes a person who believes that the person:

(A) Has been injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice; or

(B) Will be injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice that is about to occur.

(b) An aggrieved person in regard to issues to be determined in an action may intervene as of right in the action. The Attorney General may intervene in the action if the Attorney General certifies that the case is of general public importance. The court may allow an intervenor prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal.

SECTION 6. ORS 659A.885, as amended by sections 9 and 10, chapter 197, Oregon Laws 2017, and section 13, chapter 691, Oregon Laws 2017, is amended to read:

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(a) The judge shall determine the facts in an action under this subsection; and

(b) Upon any appeal of a judgment in an action under this subsection, the appellate court shall review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (3).

(2) An action may be brought under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of:

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(b) ORS 653.470, except an action may not be brought for a claim relating to ORS 653.450.

(3) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 25.337, 25.424, 652.220, 652.355, 653.547, 653.549, 659.852, 659A.030, 659A.040, 659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.069, 659A.082, 659A.103 to 659A.145, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.228, 659A.230, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 659A.290, 659A.318, 659A.355, 659A.357 or 659A.421:

(a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater, and punitive damages;

(b) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury;

(c) Upon appeal of any judgment finding a violation, the appellate court shall review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1); and

(d) Any attorney fee agreement shall be subject to approval by the court.

(4) Notwithstanding ORS 31.730, in an action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 652.220, the court may award punitive damages if:

(a) It is proved by clear and convincing evidence that an employer has engaged in fraud, acted with malice or acted with willful and wanton misconduct; or

(b) An employer was previously adjudicated in a proceeding under this section or under ORS 659A.850 for a violation of ORS 652.220.

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(6) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 171.120, 476.574 or 659A.218, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, compensatory damages or \$250, whichever is greater.

(7) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 10.090 or 10.092,

the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, a civil penalty in the amount of \$720.

(8) Any individual against whom any distinction, discrimination or restriction on account of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status or age, if the individual is 18 years of age or older, has been made by any place of public accommodation, as defined in ORS 659A.400, by any employee or person acting on behalf of the place or by any person aiding or abetting the place or person in violation of ORS 659A.406 may bring an action against the operator or manager of the place, the employee or person acting on behalf of the place or the aider or abettor of the place or person. Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, in an action under this subsection:

(a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, compensatory and punitive damages;

(b) The operator or manager of the place of public accommodation, the employee or person acting on behalf of the place, and any aider or abettor shall be jointly and severally liable for all damages awarded in the action;

(c) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury;

(d) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff;

(e) The court may award reasonable attorney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a defendant who prevails only if the court determines that the plaintiff had no objectively reasonable basis for asserting a claim or no reasonable basis for appealing an adverse decision of a trial court; and

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(9) When the commissioner or the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance to the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, or that a group of persons has been denied any of the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal

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(a) "Aggrieved person" includes a person who believes that the person:

(A) Has been injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice; or

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(b) An aggrieved person in regard to issues to be determined in an action may intervene as of right in the action. The Attorney General may intervene in the action if the Attorney General certifies that the case is of general public importance. The court may allow an intervenor prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal.

Approved by the Governor May 22, 2019

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