

Labor Law Information Relating to



Public Employee
Safety and Health

Public Employees
Job Safety & Health Protection

The New York State Public Employee Safety and Health Act of 1980 provides job safety and health protection for workers through the promotion of safe and healthful working conditions throughout the State. Requirements of the Act include the following:

Employers

- Employers must provide employees with a workplace that is:
- free from recognized hazards,
 - in compliance with the safety and health standards that apply to the workplace, and
 - in compliance with any other regulations issued under the PESH Act by the Commissioner of Labor.

Employees

Employees must comply with all safety and health standards that apply to their actions on the job. Employees must also comply with any regulations issued under the PESH Act that apply to their job.

Enforcement

The New York State Department of Labor administers and enforces the PESH Act. The Commissioner of Labor issues safety and health standards. The Department's Division of Safety and Health (DOSHS) has Inspectors and Hygienists who inspect workplaces to make sure they are following the PESH Act.

Inspection

When DOSHS staff inspect a workplace, a representative of the employer and a representative approved by the employees must be allowed to help with the inspection. When there is no employee-approved representative, DOSHS staff must speak with a fair number of employees about the safety and health conditions in the workplace.

Order to Comply

If the Department believes an employer has violated the PESH Act, we will issue an order to comply notice to the employer. The order will list dates by which each violation must be fixed. If violations are not fixed by those dates, the employer may be fined.

The order to comply must be posted at or near the place of violation, where it can be easily seen. This is to warn employees that a danger may exist.

Complaint

Any interested person may file a complaint if they believe there are unsafe or unhealthful conditions in a public workplace. This includes:

- An employee
- A representative of an employee
- Groups of employees
- A representative of a group of employees

Make this complaint in writing to the nearest DOSHS office or by email to: Ask.SHNYPESH@labor.ny.gov. On request, DOSHS will not release the names of any employees who file a complaint. The Department of Labor will evaluate each complaint. The Department will notify the person who made the complaint of the results of the investigation.

These complaints may also be made to the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration online at: www.osha.gov.

Discrimination

Employees may not be fired or discriminated against in any way for filing safety and health complaints or otherwise exercising their rights under the Act.

If an employee believes that they have been discriminated against, he or she may file a complaint with the nearest DOSHS office. File this complaint within 30 days of the discrimination incident.

Voluntary Activity

The Department of Labor encourages employers and employees to voluntarily:

- reduce workplace hazards, and
- develop and improve safety and health programs in all workplaces.

The Division of Safety and Health can provide free help with identifying and correcting job site hazards. Employers may request this assistance on a voluntary basis by emailing: Ask.SHNYPESH@labor.ny.gov.

Additional information may be obtained from the nearest DOSHS District Office below:

Albany District

State Office Campus
Bldg. 12, Rm. 158
Albany, NY 12240
Tel: (518) 457-5508

Binghamton District

44 Hawley St., Rm. 901
Binghamton, NY 13901
Tel: (607) 721-8211

Buffalo District

65 Court Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
Tel: (716) 847-7133

Garden City District

400 Oak Street
Garden City, NY 11550
Tel: (516) 228-3970

New York City District

75 Varick St., 7th Floor
New York, NY 10013
Tel: (212) 775-3554

Rochester District

109 S. Union St., Rm. 402
Rochester, NY 14607
Tel: (585) 258-8806

Syracuse District

450 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
Tel: (315) 479-3212

Utica District

207 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501
Tel: (315) 793-2258

White Plains District

120 Bloomingdale Road
White Plains, NY 10605
Tel: (914) 997-9514

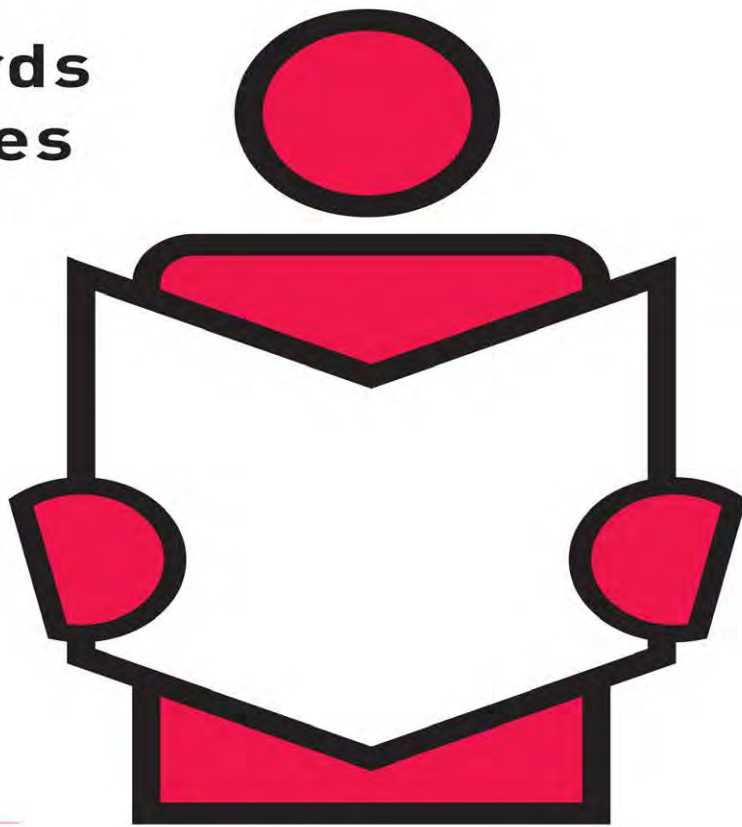
Post Conspicuously

A Division of the New York State Department of Labor

P208 (7/17) The New York State Department of Labor is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

YOU HAVE A
RIGHT TO KNOW!

Your employer must inform
you of the health
effects and hazards
of toxic substances
at your
worksite.



Learn all
you can
about toxic
substances
on your job.

For more
information,
contact:

Name _____

Location & Phone Number _____

THE RIGHT TO KNOW LAW WORKS FOR YOU.
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2706

4/00

Time for Nursing Mothers

Nursing mothers are entitled to unpaid time, or in some instances, use of paid break time, and a location to express milk during the course of the work day.

For more detailed information on these rights please contact the Human Resources Department.

New York Labor Law 206-c

NY SCHOOL BUS IDLING LAW

1. General provisions.
 - i. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subdivision, each school district shall ensure that each driver of a school bus, as defined in Vehicle and Traffic Law section 142, or other vehicle owned, leased or contracted for by such school district, shall turn off the engine of such school bus or vehicle while waiting for passengers to load or off load on school grounds, or while such vehicle is parked or standing on school grounds or in front of or adjacent to any school.
 - ii. School districts shall consider adopting policies which provide for the prompt loading and unloading of individual school buses rather than a policy of waiting for all buses to arrive before loading or unloading.
2. Exceptions. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subdivision and unless otherwise required by State or local law, the idling of a school bus or vehicle engine may be permitted to the extent necessary to achieve the following purposes: (i) for mechanical work; or (ii) to maintain an appropriate temperature for passenger comfort; or (iii) in emergency evacuations where necessary to operate wheelchair lifts.
3. Driver requirements. Each school district shall ensure that each driver of a school bus shall:
 - i. instruct pupils on the necessity to board the school bus promptly in the afternoon in order to reduce loading time;
 - ii. whenever possible, park the school bus diagonally in school loading areas to minimize the exhaust from adjacent buses that may enter the school bus and school buildings; and
 - iii. turn off the bus engine during sporting or other events.

8 NYCRR § 156.3(i)

NEW YORK CORRECTION LAW
ARTICLE 23-A LICENSURE AND EMPLOYMENT OF
PERSONS PREVIOUSLY
CONVICTED OF ONE OR MORE
CRIMINAL OFFENSES

§ 750. Definitions For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (1) "Public agency" means the state or any local subdivision thereof, or any state or local department, agency, board or commission.
- (2) "Private employer" means any person, company, corporation, labor organization or association which employs ten or more persons.
- (3) "Direct relationship" means that the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on his fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the license, opportunity, or job in question.
- (4) "License" means any certificate, license, permit or grant of permission required by the laws of this state, its political subdivisions or instrumentalities as a condition for the lawful practice of any occupation, employment, trade, vocation, business, or profession. Provided, however, that "license" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include any license or permit to own, possess, carry, or fire any explosive, pistol, handgun, rifle, shotgun, or other firearm.
- (5) "Employment" means any occupation, vocation or employment, or any form of vocational or educational training. Provided, however, that "employment" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include membership in any law enforcement agency.

§ 751. Applicability

The provisions of this article shall apply to any application by any person for a license or employment at any public or private employer, who has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction, and to any license or employment held by any person whose conviction of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction preceded such employment or granting of a license, except where a mandatory forfeiture, disability or bar to employment is imposed by law, and has not been removed by an executive pardon, certificate of relief from disabilities or certificate of good conduct. Nothing in this article shall be construed to affect any right an employer may have with respect to an intentional misrepresentation in connection with an application for employment made by a prospective employee or previously made by a current employee.

§ 752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited

No application for any license or employment, and no employment or license held by an individual, to which the provisions of this article are applicable, shall be denied or acted upon adversely by reason of the individual's having been previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses, or by reason of a finding of lack of "good moral character" when such finding is based upon the fact that the individual has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses, unless:

- (1) there is a direct relationship between one or more of the previous criminal offenses and the specific license or employment sought or held by the individual; or
- (2) the issuance or continuation of the license or the granting or continuation of the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public.

§ 753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction; presumption

1. In making a determination pursuant to [section seven hundred fifty-two](#) of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall consider the following factors:
 - (a) The public policy of this state, as expressed in this act, to encourage the licensure and employment of persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses.
 - (b) The specific duties and responsibilities necessarily related to the license or employment sought or held by the person.
 - (c) The bearing, if any, the criminal offense or offenses for which the person was previously convicted will have on his fitness or ability to perform one or more such duties or responsibilities.
 - (d) The time which has elapsed since the occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses.
 - (e) The age of the person at the time of occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses.
 - (f) The seriousness of the offense or offenses.
 - (g) Any information produced by the person, or produced on his behalf, in regard to his rehabilitation and good conduct.
 - (h) The legitimate interest of the public agency or private employer in protecting property, and the safety and welfare of specific individuals or the general public.
2. In making a determination pursuant to [section seven hundred fifty-two](#) of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall also give consideration to a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct issued to the applicant, which certificate shall create a presumption of rehabilitation in regard to the offense or offenses specified therein.

§ 754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment

At the request of any person previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses who has been denied a license or employment, a public agency or private employer shall provide, within thirty days of a request, a written statement setting forth the reasons for such denial.

§ 755. Enforcement

1. In relation to actions by public agencies, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by a proceeding brought pursuant to article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules.
2. In relation to actions by private employers, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by the division of human rights pursuant to the powers and procedures set forth in article fifteen of the executive law, and, concurrently, by the New York city commission on human rights.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

A female employee required to undergo a physical examination has the right to a female physician or to the presence of a female during an examination by a male physician.

New York State Labor Law § 206-a

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