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Short Title: Labor Law Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 10, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT MAKING VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE LABOR LAWS OF NORTH
3 CAROLINA.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 74-24.2 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 74-24.2. Definitions.

7 ~~In this Article, unless the context otherwise requires:~~The following definitions apply in this
8 Article:

- 9 (1) ~~The term "accident" means an Accident.~~ – An unexpected event resulting in
10 injury to, illness of, or death of a person or persons as a result of mining
11 operations and any mine explosion, mine ignition, mine fire, mine inundation,
12 mine cave-in, or other event which could have readily resulted in serious
13 physical harm.
- 14 (2) ~~The term "Advisory Council" shall mean the Advisory Council or body~~
15 ~~authorized to be established under this Article.~~
- 16 (3) ~~The term "agent" means any Agent.~~ – Any person charged by the operator
17 with responsibility for the operation of all or part of a mine or supervision of
18 the miners in a mine, and for the purposes of this Article includes contractors,
19 subcontractors, or independent contractors employed by the operator to
20 perform any work or services at, in, or on the mine.
- 21 (4) ~~The term "Commissioner" means the Commissioner.~~ – The Commissioner of
22 Labor of North Carolina.
- 23 (5) ~~The term "Director" means the Director.~~ – The person authorized under
24 G.S. 74-24.19 and appointed by the Commissioner for the purpose of assisting
25 in the administration of this Article.
- 26 (6) ~~The term "imminent danger" means the Imminent danger.~~ – The existence of
27 any condition or practice in a mine which could reasonably be expected to
28 cause death or serious physical harm immediately to any miner if such
29 condition or practice is not abated at once.
- 30 (7) ~~The term "mine" means an Mine.~~ – An area of land and all private ways and
31 roads appurtenant thereto, structures, facilities, machinery, tools, equipment,
32 shafts, slopes, tunnels, excavations, and other property, real or personal,
33 placed or constructed on, under, or above the surface of such land by any
34 person, used in, or to be used in, or resulting from (including the reclamation



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1 of mined areas or the storage of materials in mined areas), or to facilitate the
2 work of exploring for, developing of, or extracting by any means or method
3 in such area all minerals, inorganic and organic, from their natural deposits.
4 The term "mine" also includes all mineral processing and milling facilities
5 except those used in the processing of source materials as defined in the
6 Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

7 (8) ~~The term "miner" means any Miner.~~ – Any individual, other than an operator
8 or an agent, working in or about a mine.

9 (9) ~~The term "operator" means an Operator.~~ – An individual, partnership,
10 association, corporation, firm, subsidiary of a corporation, or other
11 organization owning, operating, leasing, controlling, or supervising a mining
12 operation.

13 (10) ~~The term "repeated violation" means a Repeated violation.~~ – A violation for
14 which an operator was issued a notice or an order on an inspection and which
15 is found to exist again on the next regular inspection, even though the violation
16 was abated within the time fixed for abatement.

17 (11) ~~The term "State" means the State.~~ – The State of North Carolina."

18 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 74-24.4(a) reads as rewritten:

19 "(a) The Commissioner shall develop, adopt, revise, and promulgate safety and health
20 standards for the purpose of the protection of life, the promotion of safety and health, and the
21 prevention of "accidents" in mines which are subject to this Article. In the development of safety
22 and health standards, the Commissioner shall consult with ~~the Advisory Council~~, interested
23 federal agencies, appropriate representatives of other State agencies, appropriate representatives
24 of mine operators and miners, and other interested persons and organizations whose participation
25 would further the purposes of this Article."

26 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 74-24.6 is repealed.

27 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 95-111.3(a) reads as rewritten:

28 "(a) The term "amusement device" shall mean any mechanical or structural device or
29 attraction that carries or conveys or permits persons to walk along, around or over a fixed or
30 restricted route or course or within a defined area including the entrances and exits thereto, for
31 the purpose of giving such persons amusement, pleasure, thrills or excitement. This term shall
32 not include any of the following:

33 (1) Devices operated on a river, lake, or any other natural body of water.

34 (2) Wavepools.

35 (3) Roller skating rinks.

36 (4) Ice skating rinks.

37 (5) Skateboard ramps or courses.

38 (6) Mechanical bulls.

39 (7) Buildings or concourses used in laser games.

40 (8) All-terrain vehicles.

41 (9) Motorcycles.

42 (10) Bicycles.

43 (11) Mopeds.

44 (12) Rock walls that are in a fixed, permanent location.

45 (13) Zip-lines.

46 (14) Funhouses, haunted houses, and similar walk-through devices that are erected
47 temporarily on a seasonal basis and do not have mechanical components.

48 (15) Playground equipment, including but not limited to soft contained play
49 equipment, swings, seesaws, slides, stationary spring-mounted animal
50 features, jungle gyms, rider-propelled merry-go-rounds, and trampolines.

1 (16) Any train or device previously or currently approved for use on the public rail
2 transit system."

3 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 95-133(b) reads as rewritten:

4 "(b) Subject to the general supervision of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner,
5 the Director shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of all laws, rules and
6 regulations which it is the duty of the Division to administer and enforce. The Director shall have
7 the power, jurisdiction and authority to:

8 ...
9 (13) Obtain relevant medical records. The Occupational Safety and Health
10 Division is a health oversight agency as defined in 45 C.F.R. § 164.501,
11 Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information. A
12 covered entity, as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and
13 Accountability Act, may disclose protected health information to health
14 oversight agencies, including the Occupational Safety and Health Division, as
15 necessary for law enforcement, judicial, and administrative purposes. The
16 Commissioner or the Director, or their authorized agents, may obtain medical
17 records of injured or deceased employees that are both directly related to the
18 investigation being conducted and are necessary to conduct investigations and
19 enforcement proceedings under this Article. The medical records to be
20 obtained shall be restricted to the evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment of an
21 employee injury or fatality. Such records shall only consist of those compiled
22 and maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services, by
23 hospitals participating in the statewide trauma system, or by emergency
24 medical services providers in connection with the dispatch, response,
25 treatment, or transport of individual patients. The medical records obtained by
26 the Department shall be kept separate from any investigative file, shall be
27 strictly confidential, are not public records within the meaning of G.S. 132-1,
28 and shall not be released to any employer under investigation except as
29 necessary to support the issuance of a citation in an OSHANC enforcement
30 proceeding."

31 **SECTION 4.(a)** Article 5B of Chapter 95 of the General Statutes is repealed.

32 **SECTION 4.(b)** G.S. 1-539.12(c) reads as rewritten:

33 "(c) The provisions of this section apply to any employee, agent, or other representative
34 of the current or former employer who is authorized to provide and who provides information in
35 accordance with the provisions of this section. For the purposes of this section, "employer" also
36 includes a job placement service but does not include a private personnel service as defined in
37 G.S. 95-47.1 ~~or a job listing service as defined in G.S. 95-47.19~~ except as provided hereinafter.
38 The provisions of this section apply to a private personnel service as defined in ~~G.S. 95-47.1 and~~
39 ~~a job listing service as defined in G.S. 95-47.19~~ G.S. 95-47.1 only to the extent that the service
40 conveys information derived from credit reports, court records, educational records, and
41 information furnished to it by the employee or prior employers and the service identifies the
42 source of the information."

43 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 95-25.5(a) reads as rewritten:

44 "(a) No youth under 18 years of age shall be employed by any employer in any occupation
45 without a youth employment certificate unless specifically exempted. The Commissioner of
46 Labor shall prescribe regulations for youths and employers concerning the issuance, maintenance
47 and revocation of certificates. Certificates will be issued by the ~~Commissioner, both directly and~~
48 ~~electronically.~~ Commissioner."

49 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 95-25.7 reads as rewritten:

50 "**§ 95-25.7. Payment to separated employees.**

1 Employees whose employment is discontinued for any reason shall be paid all wages due on
2 or before the next regular payday either through the regular pay channels or by trackable mail if
3 requested by the ~~employee~~ employee in writing. Wages based on bonuses, commissions or other
4 forms of calculation shall be paid on the first regular payday after the amount becomes calculable
5 when a separation occurs. Such wages may not be forfeited unless the employee has been notified
6 in accordance with G.S. 95-25.13 of the employer's policy or practice which results in forfeiture.
7 Employees not so notified are not subject to such loss or forfeiture."

8 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 95-25.13 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 95-25.13. Notification, posting, and records.**

10 Every employer ~~shall~~ shall do all of the following:

- 11 (1) Notify its employees, ~~orally or~~ in writing at the time of hiring, of the promised
12 wages and the day and place for ~~payment~~ payment.
- 13 (2) Make available to its employees, in writing or through a posted notice
14 maintained in a place accessible to its employees, employment practices and
15 policies with regard to promised ~~wages~~ wages.
- 16 (3) Notify employees, in ~~writing or through a posted notice maintained in a place~~
17 ~~accessible to its employees, at least 24 hours~~ writing, at least one pay period
18 prior to any changes in promised wages. Wages may be retroactively
19 increased without the prior notice required by this ~~subsection~~ and subsection.
- 20 (4) Furnish each employee with an itemized statement of deductions made from
21 that employee's wages under G.S. 95-25.8 for each pay period such deductions
22 are made."

23 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 95-25.23A(a) reads as rewritten:

24 "(a) Any employer who violates the provisions of G.S. 95-25.15(b) or any regulation
25 issued pursuant to G.S. 95-25.15(b), shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to two hundred fifty
26 dollars (\$250.00) per employee with the maximum not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000)
27 per ~~investigation~~ violation by the Commissioner or the Commissioner's authorized
28 representative. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Commissioner shall consider each
29 of the following:

- 30 (1) The appropriateness of the penalty for the size of the business of the employer
31 charged.
- 32 (2) The gravity of the violation.
- 33 (3) Whether the violation involves an employee under 18 years of age.

34 The determination by the Commissioner shall be final, unless within 15 days after receipt of
35 notice thereof by certified mail with return receipt, by signature confirmation as provided by the
36 U.S. Postal Service, by a designated delivery service authorized pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §
37 7502(f)(2) with delivery receipt, or via hand delivery, the person charged with the violation takes
38 exception to the determination, in which event final determination of the penalty shall be made
39 in an administrative proceeding pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 150B and in a judicial
40 proceeding pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 150B."

41 **SECTION 9.** This act is effective when it becomes law.