

HB 1137 -- Equal Employment Practices

Sponsor: Lowe (44)

This bill requires employers to annually provide a written statement informing each employee of his or her job title, wage rate, and how the wage rate was calculated. The employee notice is to be supplemented whenever the employee is promoted or reassigned.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is required to establish forms and procedures for employers to submit certain job information, provide for the confidentiality of the acquired information, and compile and publish any reports it deems appropriate on the submitted information.

The department director will appoint a nine-member commission to be known as the Equal Pay Commission. The commission's membership requirements are specified in the bill. The commission is required to study and identify wage disparities between the public and private sectors, men and women, and minorities and nonminorities as well as the causes, consequences, and needed legislation to correct the disparities. The commission must report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly within 12 months of its formation.

The bill requires equal pay for equal employment regardless of gender and protection from employer retribution for an employee who participates in an investigation of wage discrimination.