Session of 2025

HOUSE BILL No. 2299

By Committee on Education

Requested by Representative Estes

2-5

AN ACT concerning discrimination; relating to the attorney general; prohibiting discriminatory practices at public educational institutions; authorizing the attorney general to investigate and assess penalties; authorizing the human rights commission to refer complaints to the attorney general for investigation and initiation of legal proceedings; amending K.S.A. 44-1001, 44-1004, 44-1005 and 44-1009 and repealing the existing sections.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) (1) It is declared to be the policy of the state that public educational institutions that receive and expend tax dollars are prohibited from engaging in practices or implementing policies that:

- (A) Discriminate or cause prejudice on the basis of religion; or
- (B) promote or tolerate antisemitism or antisemitic acts.
- (2) This section shall not be construed to prohibit any coursework that is dedicated to the education and study of world religions or cultures in public educational institutions.
- (b) (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of subsection (a) may file a complaint with the attorney general. If the person aggrieved is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian may file a complaint on behalf of the person.
- (2) The attorney general may investigate any complaint received under paragraph (1). During the course of such investigation, the attorney general may:
- (A) Subpoena witnesses, evidence, records, documents or other material related to the complaint;
 - (B) take testimony under oath;
- (C) examine or cause to be examined any records or other material that is relevant to the complaint;
- (D) require a person to attend any proceeding and provide testimony under oath regarding any material that is relevant to the complaint;
 - (E) serve interrogatories; and
 - (F) administer oaths and affirmations.
- (3) (A) If the attorney general issues a subpoena or interrogatory under this section, service shall be made:

Proposed Amendments to House Bill No. 2299
House Committee on Education

Prepared by: Jason Long Office of Revisor of Statutes

Strike in line 6

and

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 rules of practice to govern, expedite and effectuate the foregoing procedure and its own actions thereunder. The rules of practice shall be available, upon written request, within 30 days after the date of adoption.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 44-1009 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-1009. (a) It shall be an unlawful employment practice:

(1)(a) For an employer, because of the race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry of any person to refuse to hire or employ such person to bar or discharge such person from employment or to otherwise discriminate against such person in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment; to limit, segregate, separate, classify or make any distinction in regards to employees; or to follow any employment procedure or practice which, in fact, results in discrimination, segregation or separation without a valid business necessity.

(2)(b) For a labor organization, because of the race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry of any person, to exclude or to expel from its membership such person or to discriminate in any way against any of its members or against any employer or any personemployed by an employer.

(3)(c) For any employer, employment agency or labor organization to print or circulate or cause to be printed or circulated any statement, advertisement or publication, or to use any form of application for employment or membership or to make any inquiry in connection with prospective employment or membership, which expresses, directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification or discrimination as to race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry, or any intent to make any such limitation, specification or discrimination, unless based on a bona fide occupational qualification.

(4)(d) For any employer, employment agency or labor organization to discharge, expel or otherwise discriminate against any person because such person has opposed any practices or acts forbidden under this act or because such person has filed a complaint, testified or assisted in any proceeding under this act.

(5)(e) For an employment agency to refuse to list and properly classify for employment or to refuse to refer any person for employment or otherwise discriminate against any person because of such person's race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry; or to comply with a request from an employer for a referral of applicants for employment if the request expresses, either directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification or discrimination as to race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry.

(6)(f) For an employer, labor organization, employment agency, or school which provides, coordinates or controls apprenticeship, on-the-job, or other training or retraining program, to maintain a practice of

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42 43 discrimination, segregation or separation because of race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry, in admission, hiring, assignments, upgrading, transfers, promotion, layoff, dismissal, apprenticeship or other training or retraining program, or in any other terms, conditions or privileges of employment, membership, apprenticeship or training; or to follow any policy or procedure which, infact, results in such practices without a valid business motive.

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(7)(g) For any person, whether an employer or an employee or not, to aid, abet, incite, compel or coerce the doing of any of the acts forbidden under this act, or attempt to do so.

(8)(h) For an employer, labor organization, employment agency or joint labor-management committee to: (A)(1) Limit, segregate or classify a job applicant or employee in a way that adversely affects the opportunities or status of such applicant or employee because of the disability of suchapplicant or employee; (B)(2) participate in a contractual or otherarrangement or relationship, including a relationship with an employmentor referral agency, labor union, an organization providing fringe benefits toan employee or an organization providing training and apprenticeship programs that has the effect of subjecting a qualified applicant or employee with a disability to the discrimination prohibited by this act; (C) (3) utilize standards criteria, or methods of administration that have the effect of discrimination on the basis of disability or that perpetuate the discrimination of others who are subject to common administrative control; (D)(4) exclude or otherwise deny equal jobs or benefits to a qualified individual because of the known disability of an individual withwhom the qualified individual is known to have a relationship or association; (E)(5) not make reasonable accommodations to the knownphysical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, unless such employer, labororganization, employment agency or joint labor-management committeecan demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardshipon the operation of the business thereof; (F)(6) deny employmentopportunities to a job applicant or employee who is an otherwise qualifiedindividual with a disability, if such denial is based on the need to make reasonable accommodation to the physical or mental impairments of the employee or applicant; (G)(7) use qualification standards, employmenttests or other selection criteria that screen out or tend to screen out anindividual with a disability or a class of individuals with disabilities unless the standard, test or other selection criteria, as used, is shown to be jobrelated for the position in question and is consistent with business necessity; or (H)(8) fail to select and administer tests concerning employment in the most effective manner to ensure that, when such test is administered to a job applicant or employee who has a disability that

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impairs sensory, manual or speaking skills, the test results accurately reflect the skills, aptitude or whatever other factor of such applicant or employee that such test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills of such employee or applicant-(except where such skills are the factors that the test purports to measure).

(9)(i) For any employer to:

- (A)(1) Seek to obtain, to obtain or to use genetic screening or testinginformation of an employee or a prospective employee to distinguishbetween or discriminate against or restrict any right or benefit otherwisedue or available to an employee or a prospective employee; or
- (B)(2) subject, directly or indirectly, any employee or prospective employee to any genetic screening or test.
- (b) It shall not be an unlawful employment practice to fill vacancies in such way as to climinate or reduce imbalance with respect to race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry.
 - (e) It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice:
- (1) For any person, as defined herein being the owner, operator, lessee, manager, agent or employee of any place of public accommodationto refuse, deny or make a distinction, directly or indirectly, in offering itsgoods, services, facilities, and accommodations to any person as coveredby this act because of race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry, except where a distinction because of sex is necessary because of the intrinsic nature of such accommodation.
- (2) For any person, whether or not specifically enjoined fromdiscriminating under any provisions of this act, to aid, abet, ineito, compelor coerce the doing of any of the acts forbidden under this act, or to attempt to do so.
- (3) For any person, to refuse, deny, make a distinction, directly or indirectly, or discriminate in any way against persons because of the race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry of such persons in the full and equal use and enjoyment of the services, facilities, privileges and advantages of any institution, department or agency of the state of Kansas or any political subdivision or municipality thereof.
- Sec. 6. K.S.A. 44-1001, 44-1004, 44-1005 and 44-1009 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Strike all in lines 1-33

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and

And by renumbering sections accordingly