

SB2476



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2476

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Ram Villivalam

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

820 ILCS 115/14

from Ch. 48, par. 39m-14

Amends the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act. Provides that an employee is entitled to recover damages of 5% (rather than 2%) of the amount of any underpayments in wages for each month following the date of payment during which such underpayments remain unpaid. Effective immediately.

LRB102 16413 JLS 21803 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning employment.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act is
5 amended by changing Section 14 as follows:

6 (820 ILCS 115/14) (from Ch. 48, par. 39m-14)

7 Sec. 14. (a) Any employee not timely paid wages, final
8 compensation, or wage supplements by his or her employer as
9 required by this Act shall be entitled to recover through a
10 claim filed with the Department of Labor or in a civil action,
11 but not both, the amount of any such underpayments and damages
12 of 5% ~~2%~~ of the amount of any such underpayments for each month
13 following the date of payment during which such underpayments
14 remain unpaid. In a civil action, such employee shall also
15 recover costs and all reasonable attorney's fees.

16 (a-5) In addition to the remedies provided in subsections
17 (a), (b), and (c) of this Section, any employer or any agent of
18 an employer, who, being able to pay wages, final compensation,
19 or wage supplements and being under a duty to pay, wilfully
20 refuses to pay as provided in this Act, or falsely denies the
21 amount or validity thereof or that the same is due, with intent
22 to secure for himself or other person any underpayment of such
23 indebtedness or with intent to annoy, harass, oppress, hinder,

1 delay or defraud the person to whom such indebtedness is due,
2 upon conviction, is guilty of:

3 (1) for unpaid wages, final compensation or wage
4 supplements in the amount of \$5,000 or less, a Class B
5 misdemeanor; or

6 (2) for unpaid wages, final compensation or wage
7 supplements in the amount of more than \$5,000, a Class A
8 misdemeanor.

9 Each day during which any violation of this Act continues
10 shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

11 Any employer or any agent of an employer who violates this
12 Section of the Act a subsequent time within 2 years of a prior
13 criminal conviction under this Section is guilty, upon
14 conviction, of a Class 4 felony.

15 (b) Any employer who has been demanded or ordered by the
16 Department or ordered by the court to pay wages, final
17 compensation, or wage supplements due an employee shall be
18 required to pay a non-waivable administrative fee to the
19 Department of Labor in the amount of \$250 if the amount ordered
20 by the Department as wages owed is \$3,000 or less; \$500 if the
21 amount ordered by the Department as wages owed is more than
22 \$3,000, but less than \$10,000; and \$1,000 if the amount
23 ordered by the Department as wages owed is \$10,000 or more. Any
24 employer who has been so demanded or ordered by the Department
25 or ordered by a court to pay such wages, final compensation, or
26 wage supplements and who fails to seek timely review of such a

1 demand or order as provided for under this Act and who fails to
2 comply within 15 calendar days after such demand or within 35
3 days of an administrative or court order is entered shall also
4 be liable to pay a penalty to the Department of Labor of 20% of
5 the amount found owing and a penalty to the employee of 1% per
6 calendar day of the amount found owing for each day of delay in
7 paying such wages to the employee. All moneys recovered as
8 fees and civil penalties under this Act, except those owing to
9 the affected employee, shall be deposited into the Wage Theft
10 Enforcement Fund, a special fund which is hereby created in
11 the State treasury. Moneys in the Fund may be used only for
12 enforcement of this Act.

13 (b-5) Penalties and fees under this Section may be
14 assessed by the Department and recovered in a civil action
15 brought by the Department in any circuit court or in any
16 administrative adjudicative proceeding under this Act. In any
17 such civil action or administrative adjudicative proceeding
18 under this Act, the Department shall be represented by the
19 Attorney General.

20 (c) Any employer, or any agent of an employer, who
21 discharges or in any other manner discriminates against any
22 employee because that employee has made a complaint to his
23 employer, to the Director of Labor or his authorized
24 representative, in a public hearing, or to a community
25 organization that he or she has not been paid in accordance
26 with the provisions of this Act, or because that employee has

1 caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to
2 this Act, or because that employee has testified or is about to
3 testify in an investigation or proceeding under this Act, is
4 guilty, upon conviction, of a Class C misdemeanor. An employee
5 who has been unlawfully retaliated against shall be entitled
6 to recover through a claim filed with the Department of Labor
7 or in a civil action, but not both, all legal and equitable
8 relief as may be appropriate. In a civil action, such employee
9 shall also recover costs and all reasonable attorney's fees.
10 (Source: P.A. 98-527, eff. 1-1-14.)

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
12 becoming law.