

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 637 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY WARD, BREWSTER, SCARNATI, McILHINNEY,  
EICHELBERGER, D. WHITE, VOGEL, RAFFERTY, BRUBAKER, ORIE,  
FONTANA, ALLOWAY, GREENLEAF, WAUGH, ARGALL, PICCOLA AND  
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
JUNE 28, 2012

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending Title 62 (Procurement) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated~~ ←  
2 ~~Statutes, in contracts for public works, providing for~~  
3 ~~verification of the employment eligibility of all employees~~  
4 ~~for purposes of wage reporting and employment eligibility;~~  
5 ~~AND prescribing penalties; and establishing good faith~~ ←  
6 ~~immunity under certain circumstances.~~  
7 REQUIRING PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS TO VERIFY ←  
8 EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE POWERS AND DUTIES  
9 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES; PRESCRIBING SANCTIONS;  
10 AND ESTABLISHING GOOD FAITH IMMUNITY UNDER CERTAIN  
11 CIRCUMSTANCES.  
12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
13 hereby enacts as follows:  
14 ~~Section 1. Chapter 39 of Title 62 of the Pennsylvania~~ ←  
15 ~~Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:~~  
16 SUBCHAPTER F  
17 EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION  
18 Sec.  
19 3951. Scope of subchapter.  
20 3952. Definitions.

1 ~~3953. Verification.~~

2 ~~3954. Violations.~~

3 ~~3955. Enforcement and sanctions.~~

4 ~~3956. Protection from retaliation.~~

5 ~~3957. Good faith immunity.~~



6 ~~§ 3951. Scope of subchapter.~~

7 ~~This subchapter relates to verification of employment on~~  
8 ~~certain public works projects.~~

9 ~~§ 3952. Definitions.~~

10 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter~~  
11 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
12 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

13 ~~"Department." The Department of Labor and Industry of the~~  
14 ~~Commonwealth.~~

15 ~~"Employee." An individual hired by a public works contractor~~  
16 ~~after the effective date of this subchapter for whom a public~~  
17 ~~works contractor is required by law to file a Form W 2 with the~~  
18 ~~Internal Revenue Service.~~

19 ~~"EVP." The E Verify Program operated by the Department of~~  
20 ~~Homeland Security that electronically verifies employment~~  
21 ~~eligibility for employees.~~

22 ~~"INA." The Immigration and Nationality Act (66 Stat. 163, 8~~  
23 ~~U.S.C. § 1101 et seq.).~~

24 ~~"Public body." The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, any of its~~  
25 ~~political subdivisions, any authority created by the General~~  
26 ~~Assembly of the Commonwealth and any instrumentality or agency~~  
27 ~~of the Commonwealth.~~

28 ~~"Public work." Construction, reconstruction, demolition,~~  
29 ~~alteration and repair work other than maintenance work, done~~  
30 ~~under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of the funds~~

~~1 of a public body where the estimated cost of the total project  
2 is in excess of \$25,000. The term shall not include work  
3 performed under a rehabilitation or manpower training program.~~

~~4 "Public works contractor." A contractor that provides goods  
5 or services under a contract involving a public works project.~~

~~6 "Public works project." A project involving a public work.~~

~~7 "Secretary." The Secretary of Labor and Industry of the  
8 Commonwealth.~~

~~9 "Subcontractor." A person, other than a natural person,  
10 regardless of its tier, including, but not limited to, a  
11 staffing agency, that performs work for a public works  
12 contractor under a contract for a public work.~~

~~13 "Willful." Action or conduct undertaken intentionally or  
14 with reckless disregard for or deliberate ignorance of the  
15 requirements and obligations established by this subchapter.  
16 § 3953. Verification.~~

~~17 (a) General rule. As a precondition of being awarded a  
18 contract for a public work, and prior to the execution of the  
19 contract, a public works contractor shall provide the public  
20 body with which the contract will be made a verification  
21 statement in which it shall represent the following subject to ←  
22 and consistent with Federal immigration law:~~

~~23 (1) The public works contractor will verify the ←  
24 employment eligibility of a new employee for employment  
25 purposes prior to the commencement of work by the new  
26 employee through EVP in accordance with Federal law governing  
27 the use of EVP HAS REGISTERED WITH AND PARTICIPATES IN EVP ←  
28 AND WILL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN EVP THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH  
29 OF THE CONTRACT.~~

~~30 (2) The public works contractor will provide the public~~

~~body with the verification statement required under subsection (b) from each subcontractor it uses or intends to use on the public works project prior to the commencement of any work by the subcontractor on the public works project.~~

~~(3) The public works contractor will provide a certification from the department verifying that the contractor has not previously violated this subchapter.~~

~~(b) Subcontractor verification statements. Prior to the execution of a subcontract with a public works contractor, a subcontractor shall provide the public works contractor with a verification statement containing substantially the same information about the subcontractor as required under subsection (a) about the public works contractor. The subcontractor shall submit the verification statement to the contractor prior to the commencement of any work by the subcontractor on the public works project.~~

~~(c) Form. The verification statement required by this section shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary and shall comply with the following additional requirements:~~

~~(1) The statement shall include a certification that the information in the statement is true and correct and that the person signing the statement understands that the submission of false or misleading information in connection with the verification shall subject the person and the public works contractor or subcontractor, as the case may be, to sanctions provided by law.~~

~~(2) The statement shall be signed by a representative of the public works contractor or subcontractor, as applicable, who has sufficient knowledge and authority to make the representations and certifications contained in the~~

1 ~~statement.~~

2 ~~(d) Discrimination prohibited. In conducting the employment~~ ←  
3 ~~eligibility required by this section, a A public works~~ ←  
4 ~~contractor or its subcontractor, IN PERFORMING THE DUTIES UNDER~~ ←  
5 ~~THIS SUBCHAPTER, shall not discriminate against any employee on~~  
6 ~~the basis of race, ethnicity, color or national origin.~~

7 ~~§ 3954. Violations.~~

8 ~~The following shall constitute a violation of this~~  
9 ~~subchapter:~~

10 ~~(1) Employment by a public works contractor or~~ ←  
11 ~~subcontractor of an employee whose employment eligibility has~~  
12 ~~not been verified by EVP as required by this subchapter.~~

13 ~~(2) (1) Use by a public works contractor of a~~ ←  
14 ~~subcontractor on a public works project prior to the~~  
15 ~~submission by the subcontractor of a verification statement~~  
16 ~~required by this subchapter.~~

17 ~~(3) (2) Commencement of work by a subcontractor on a~~ ←  
18 ~~public works project prior to submitting to the public works~~  
19 ~~contractor a verification statement required by this~~  
20 ~~subchapter.~~

21 ~~(4) Making a false statement or misrepresentation in a~~ ←  
22 ~~verification statement required by this subchapter.~~

23 ~~(3) THE PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR DOES~~ ←  
24 ~~NOT PARTICIPATE IN EVP THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH OF THE CONTRACT~~  
25 ~~AS STATED AS TRUE AND CORRECT UNDER THE VERIFICATION~~  
26 ~~STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THIS SUBCHAPTER.~~

27 ~~§ 3955. Enforcement and sanctions.~~

28 ~~(a) General rule. The secretary shall enforce the~~  
29 ~~provisions of this subchapter.~~

30 ~~(b) Investigation of complaints. The secretary shall~~

1 ~~accept, review and investigate in a timely manner any credible~~  
2 ~~complaint that a public works contractor or subcontractor has~~  
3 ~~violated a provision of this subchapter.~~

4 ~~(c) Audits. To ensure compliance with the requirements of~~  
5 ~~this subchapter, the secretary shall conduct complaint based and~~  
6 ~~random audits of public works contractors and subcontractors in~~  
7 ~~this Commonwealth. In conducting such audits, the secretary~~  
8 ~~shall evaluate the process utilized by the public works~~  
9 ~~contractors and subcontractors in complying with the~~  
10 ~~requirements of this subchapter.~~

11 ~~(d) Sanctions. A public works contractor or subcontractor~~  
12 ~~that willfully engages in violations described in section~~  
13 ~~3954(1), (2) or (3):~~

14 ~~(1) For a first offense relating to the public contract,~~  
15 ~~a warning letter may be issued by the secretary detailing the~~  
16 ~~violation. The letter shall be posted on the department's~~  
17 ~~Internet website.~~

18 ~~(2) For a second offense relating to the public~~  
19 ~~contract:~~

20 ~~(i) At the discretion of the public body with which~~  
21 ~~the public works contractor has contracted, may be~~  
22 ~~subject to termination of the contract by the public body~~  
23 ~~without recourse against or penalty to the public body~~  
24 ~~and a fine of up to \$2,000. The right of the public body~~ ←  
25 ~~to terminate the contract under this subparagraph may not~~  
26 ~~be waived.~~

27 ~~(ii) At the discretion of the public works~~  
28 ~~contractor with whom the subcontractor has contracted,~~  
29 ~~may be subject to termination of the subcontract by the~~  
30 ~~public works contractor without recourse against or~~

~~penalty to the public works contractor. The right of the public works contractor to terminate the subcontract under this subparagraph may not be waived.~~

~~(3) For a third or subsequent offense relating to the public contract, at the discretion of the secretary, in addition to the sanctions in paragraph (2), shall be subject to debarment under section 531 (relating to debarment or suspension) for one year THREE YEARS.~~

~~§ 3956. Protection from retaliation.~~

~~(a) General rule. It shall be unlawful for a public works contractor or subcontractor to discharge, threaten or otherwise retaliate or discriminate against an employee regarding compensation or other terms or conditions of employment because the employee:~~

~~(1) participates in an investigation, hearing or inquiry held by the secretary or any other governmental authority under this subchapter; or~~

~~(2) reports or makes a complaint regarding the violation of this subchapter to a public works contractor, subcontractor or governmental authority.~~

~~(b) Actions.~~

~~(1) Any employee who suffers retaliation or discrimination in violation of this section may bring an action in a court of common pleas in accordance with established civil procedures of this Commonwealth.~~

~~(2) The action must be brought within three years from the date the employee knew of the retaliation or discrimination.~~

~~(c) Relief. If an employee prevails in an action commenced under this section, the employee shall be entitled to the~~



1 ~~following relief:~~

2 ~~(1) Reinstatement of the employee, if applicable.~~

3 ~~(2) Restitution equal to three times the amount of the~~  
4 ~~employee's wages and fringe benefits calculated from the date~~  
5 ~~of the violation or discrimination.~~

6 ~~(3) Reasonable attorney fees and costs of the action.~~

7 ~~(4) Any other legal and equitable relief as the court~~  
8 ~~deems appropriate.~~

9 ~~§ 3957. Good faith immunity.~~ ←

10 ~~A public works contractor or subcontractor that relies in~~  
11 ~~good faith on EVP procedures to verify the employment~~  
12 ~~eligibility of employees shall be immune from the sanctions~~  
13 ~~authorized under section 3955 (relating to enforcement and~~  
14 ~~sanctions) in the event that incorrect information has been~~  
15 ~~provided to the public works contractor or subcontractor.~~

16 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

17 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. ←

18 THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE PUBLIC WORKS  
19 EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION ACT.

20 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

21 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ACT SHALL  
22 HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
23 CONTEXT CLEARLY STATES OTHERWISE:

24 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES OF THE  
25 COMMONWEALTH.

26 "EMPLOYEE." AN INDIVIDUAL HIRED BY A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR  
27 OR SUBCONTRACTOR FOR WHOM A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR  
28 SUBCONTRACTOR IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO FILE A FORM W-2 WITH THE  
29 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.

30 "EVP." THE E-VERIFY PROGRAM OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF



1 HOMELAND SECURITY THAT ELECTRONICALLY VERIFIES EMPLOYMENT  
2 ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEES.

3 "PUBLIC BODY." THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ANY OF ITS  
4 POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, ANY AUTHORITY CREATED BY THE GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND ANY INSTRUMENTALITY OR AGENCY  
6 OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

7 "PUBLIC WORK." AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE ACT OF  
8 AUGUST 15, 1961 (P.L.987, NO.442), KNOWN AS THE PENNSYLVANIA  
9 PREVAILING WAGE ACT.

10 "PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR." A CONTRACTOR THAT PROVIDES WORK  
11 UNDER A CONTRACT INVOLVING A PUBLIC WORK.

12 "SECRETARY." THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES OF THE  
13 COMMONWEALTH.

14 "SUBCONTRACTOR." A PERSON, OTHER THAN A NATURAL PERSON,  
15 REGARDLESS OF ITS TIER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A  
16 STAFFING AGENCY THAT PERFORMS WORK FOR A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR  
17 UNDER A CONTRACT FOR A PUBLIC WORK. THE TERM SHALL NOT INCLUDE  
18 PERSONS THAT ARE MATERIAL SUPPLIERS FOR A PROJECT.

19 "WILLFUL." ACTION OR CONDUCT UNDERTAKEN INTENTIONALLY OR  
20 WITH RECKLESS DISREGARD FOR OR DELIBERATE IGNORANCE OF THE  
21 REQUIREMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ACT.

22 SECTION 3. DUTY OF PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS.

23 (A) GENERAL RULE.--A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR  
24 SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL PARTICIPATE IN EVP AND SHALL, SUBJECT TO THE  
25 REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL LAW GOVERNING THE USE OF EVP, USE EVP TO  
26 VERIFY EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY OF EACH NEW EMPLOYEE. THE  
27 DEPARTMENT SHALL POST ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET  
28 WEBSITE INFORMATION REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL LAW  
29 GOVERNING THE USE OF EVP.

30 (B) DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED.--IN CONDUCTING THE

1 VERIFICATION REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION, A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR  
2 OR SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE ON  
3 THE BASIS OF RACE, ETHNICITY, COLOR OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

4 SECTION 4. VERIFICATION FORM.

5 (A) GENERAL RULE FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTORS.--AS A  
6 PRECONDITION OF BEING AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR A PUBLIC WORK, OR  
7 WITH RESPECT TO A CONTRACT THAT WAS AWARDED PRIOR TO THE  
8 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN EXECUTED,  
9 PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT, A PUBLIC WORKS  
10 CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE THE PUBLIC BODY WITH A VERIFICATION  
11 FORM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (C), ACKNOWLEDGING ITS  
12 RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 3.  
13 CONTRACTS BETWEEN A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR AND ITS  
14 SUBCONTRACTORS SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS  
15 OF THIS ACT.

16 (B) GENERAL RULE FOR SUBCONTRACTORS.--PRIOR TO COMMENCING  
17 WORK ON A PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT, A SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE  
18 THE PUBLIC BODY WITH A VERIFICATION FORM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION  
19 (C) ACKNOWLEDGING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH  
20 SECTION 3. CONTRACTS BETWEEN A SUBCONTRACTOR AND ITS  
21 SUBCONTRACTORS SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS  
22 OF THIS ACT.

23 (C) FORM.--THE VERIFICATION FORM REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION  
24 SHALL BE ON A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY, AND POSTED ON  
25 THE INTERNET, AND SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL  
26 REQUIREMENTS:

27 (1) THE STATEMENT SHALL INCLUDE A CERTIFICATION THAT THE  
28 INFORMATION IN THE STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT THE  
29 INDIVIDUAL SIGNING THE STATEMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE  
30 SUBMISSION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION IN CONNECTION

1 WITH THE VERIFICATION SHALL SUBJECT THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE  
2 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE,  
3 TO SANCTIONS PROVIDED BY LAW.

4 (2) THE STATEMENT SHALL BE SIGNED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF  
5 THE PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR, AS APPLICABLE,  
6 WHO HAS SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE  
7 REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS CONTAINED IN THE  
8 STATEMENT.

9 SECTION 5. VIOLATIONS.

10 IT IS A VIOLATION OF THIS ACT FOR A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR  
11 OR SUBCONTRACTOR ON A PUBLIC WORK TO:

12 (1) FAIL TO VERIFY THE EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY OF A NEW  
13 EMPLOYEE THROUGH EVP IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW.

14 (2) NOT PROVIDE THE VERIFICATION FORM AS REQUIRED UNDER  
15 SECTION 4, OR TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT OR MISREPRESENTATION  
16 WITH RESPECT TO COMPLETING THE FORM.

17 SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS.

18 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENFORCE THIS ACT.

19 (B) INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
20 ACCEPT, REVIEW AND INVESTIGATE IN A TIMELY MANNER ANY CREDIBLE  
21 COMPLAINT THAT A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR HAS  
22 VIOLATED A PROVISION OF THIS ACT.

23 (C) AUDITS.--TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
24 THIS ACT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT COMPLAINT-BASED AND  
25 RANDOM AUDITS OF PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS IN  
26 THIS COMMONWEALTH.

27 (D) SANCTIONS.--THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS SHALL APPLY ONLY TO  
28 A VIOLATION UNDER SECTION 5(1):

29 (1) FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR  
30 SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL RECEIVE A WARNING LETTER FROM THE

1 DEPARTMENT DETAILING THE VIOLATION. THE LETTER SHALL BE  
2 POSTED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERNET WEBSITE.

3 (2) FOR A SECOND VIOLATION, A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR  
4 SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL BE DEBARRED FROM PUBLIC WORK FOR 30 DAYS.

5 (3) FOR A THIRD VIOLATION AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS, A  
6 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL BE DEBARRED  
7 FROM PUBLIC WORK FOR NOT LESS THAN 180 DAYS AND NOT MORE THAN  
8 ONE YEAR.

9 (4) IN THE CASE OF AN ALLEGED WILLFUL VIOLATION, THE  
10 SECRETARY SHALL FILE A PETITION IN COMMONWEALTH COURT SEEKING  
11 TO HAVE THE COURT ISSUE A RULE TO SHOW CAUSE WHY A PUBLIC  
12 WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR DID NOT ENGAGE IN THE  
13 WILLFUL VIOLATION. IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE PUBLIC WORKS  
14 CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR ENGAGED IN A WILLFUL VIOLATION,  
15 THE COURT SHALL ORDER THAT THE PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR  
16 SUBCONTRACTOR BE DEBARRED FROM PUBLIC WORK FOR A PERIOD OF  
17 THREE YEARS.

18 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (1), (2)  
19 OR (3), A VIOLATION BY A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR  
20 SUBCONTRACTOR THAT OCCURS TEN YEARS OR MORE AFTER A PRIOR  
21 VIOLATION SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE A FIRST VIOLATION.

22 (6) FOR THE PURPOSES OF ASSESSING SANCTIONS, VIOLATIONS  
23 COMMITTED BY A CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR SUBJECT TO THIS  
24 ACT INVOLVING A SINGLE PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT SHALL BE  
25 CONSIDERED A SINGLE VIOLATION DESPITE THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES  
26 THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF THE VIOLATIONS.

27 (E) CIVIL PENALTY.--A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR  
28 SUBCONTRACTOR THAT VIOLATES SECTION 5(2) SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A  
29 CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT LESS THAN \$250 AND NOT MORE THAN \$1,000 FOR  
30 EACH VIOLATION, TO BE IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

1 (F) NOTICE AND APPEAL.--ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT  
2 UNDER SUBSECTIONS (D) (1), (2) AND (3) AND (E) SHALL BE SUBJECT  
3 TO THE NOTICE, APPEAL AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF 2 PA.C.S.  
4 (RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND PROCEDURE).

5 SECTION 7. PROTECTION FROM RETALIATION.

6 (A) GENERAL RULE.--IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR A PUBLIC WORKS  
7 CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR TO DISCHARGE, THREATEN OR OTHERWISE  
8 RETALIATE OR DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE REGARDING  
9 COMPENSATION OR OTHER TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE  
10 THE EMPLOYEE:

11 (1) PARTICIPATES IN AN INVESTIGATION, HEARING OR INQUIRY  
12 HELD BY THE SECRETARY OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY  
13 UNDER THIS ACT; OR

14 (2) REPORTS OR MAKES A COMPLAINT REGARDING THE VIOLATION  
15 OF THIS ACT TO A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR OR  
16 TO ANY GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY.

17 (B) ACTIONS.--

18 (1) AN EMPLOYEE WHO SUFFERS RETALIATION OR  
19 DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BRING AN  
20 ACTION IN A COURT OF COMMON PLEAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
21 ESTABLISHED CIVIL PROCEDURES OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

22 (2) THE ACTION MUST BE BROUGHT WITHIN 180 DAYS FROM THE  
23 DATE THE EMPLOYEE KNEW OF THE RETALIATION OR DISCRIMINATION.

24 (C) RELIEF.--IF AN EMPLOYEE PREVAILS IN AN ACTION COMMENCED  
25 UNDER THIS SECTION, THE EMPLOYEE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE  
26 FOLLOWING RELIEF:

27 (1) REINSTATEMENT OF THE EMPLOYEE, IF APPLICABLE.

28 (2) RESTITUTION EQUAL TO THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF THE  
29 EMPLOYEE'S WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS CALCULATED FROM THE DATE  
30 OF THE RETALIATION OR DISCRIMINATION.

1 (3) REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS OF THE ACTION.

2 (4) ANY OTHER LEGAL AND EQUITABLE RELIEF AS THE COURT  
3 DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

4 SECTION 8. GOOD FAITH IMMUNITY.

5 A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR THAT RELIES IN  
6 GOOD FAITH ON EVP PROCEDURES TO VERIFY EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY OF  
7 NEW EMPLOYEES UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM THE SANCTIONS  
8 AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 6 AND SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY TO AN  
9 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT HIRED OR WHO IS DISCHARGED FROM EMPLOYMENT  
10 IN THE EVENT THAT INCORRECT INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE  
11 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR. A PUBLIC WORKS  
12 EMPLOYER OR SUBCONTRACTOR THAT CAN PRODUCE WRITTEN  
13 ACKNOWLEDGMENT PROVIDED BY AN APPLICABLE FEDERAL AGENCY OF USE  
14 OF EVP IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH.

15 SECTION 9. PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR LIABILITY.

16 NOTHING IN THIS ACT MAY BE CONSTRUED TO RENDER A PUBLIC WORKS  
17 CONTRACTOR LIABLE FOR THE ACTION OF A SUBCONTRACTOR OR A  
18 SUBCONTRACTOR LIABLE FOR AN ACTION OF ANOTHER SUBCONTRACTOR.

19 SECTION 10. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

20 THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY  
21 TO ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE THIS ACT.

22 SECTION 11. COOPERATION AMONG DEPARTMENTS.

23 THE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT  
24 OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY OR ANY OTHER COMMONWEALTH AGENCY TO  
25 PROVIDE FOR THE COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF  
26 THIS ACT.

27 SECTION 20. EFFECTIVE DATE.

28 THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2013.