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Code: Select Code ➤ Section: 1 or 2 or 1001

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GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV

TITLE 1. GENERAL [100 - 7931.000] (Title 1 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 134.) DIVISION 7. MISCELLANEOUS [6000 - 7599.200] (Division 7 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 134.)

CHAPTER 17.3. Enforcement Actions [7285 - 7285.3] (Chapter 17.3 added by Stats. 2002, Ch. 1071, Sec. 2.)

7285. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

- (a) All protections, rights, and remedies available under state law, except any reinstatement remedy prohibited by federal law, are available to all individuals regardless of immigration status who have applied for employment, or who are or who have been employed, in this state.
- (b) For purposes of enforcing state labor, employment, civil rights, consumer protection, and housing laws, a person's immigration status is irrelevant to the issue of liability, and in proceedings or discovery undertaken to enforce those state laws no inquiry shall be permitted into a person's immigration status unless the person seeking to make the inquiry has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the inquiry is necessary in order to comply with federal immigration law.
- (c) The provisions of this section are declaratory of existing law.
- (d) The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

(Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 160, Sec. 2. (AB 1690) Effective January 1, 2018.)

- 7285.1. (a) Except as otherwise required by federal law, an employer, or a person acting on behalf of the employer, shall not provide voluntary consent to an immigration enforcement agent to enter any nonpublic areas of a place of labor. This section does not apply if the immigration enforcement agent provides a judicial warrant.
- (b) An employer who violates subdivision (a) shall be subject to a civil penalty of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a first violation and five thousand dollars (\$5,000) up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each subsequent violation. If a court finds that an immigration enforcement agent was permitted to enter a nonpublic area of a place of labor without the consent of the employer or other person in control of the place of labor, the civil penalty shall not apply. "Violation" means each incident when it is found that subdivision (a) was violated without reference to the number of employees, the number of immigration enforcement agents involved in the incident, or the number of locations affected in a day.
- (c) This section shall not preclude an employer or person acting on behalf of an employer from taking the immigration enforcement agent to a nonpublic area, where employees are not present, for the purpose of verifying whether the immigration enforcement agent has a judicial warrant, provided no consent to search nonpublic areas is given in the process.
- (d) The exclusive authority to enforce this section is granted to the Labor Commissioner or the Attorney General and enforcement shall be through civil action. Any penalty recovered shall be deposited in the Labor Enforcement and Compliance Fund.
- (e) This section applies to public and private employers.

(Added by Stats. 2017, Ch. 492, Sec. 1. (AB 450) Effective January 1, 2018.)

- 7285.2. (a) (1) Except as otherwise required by federal law, and except as provided in paragraph (2), an employer, or a person acting on behalf of the employer, shall not provide voluntary consent to an immigration enforcement agent to access, review, or obtain the employer's employee records without a subpoena or judicial warrant. This section does not prohibit an employer, or person acting on behalf of an employer, from challenging the validity of a subpoena or judicial warrant in a federal district court.
 - (2) This subdivision shall not apply to I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification forms and other documents for which a Notice of Inspection has been provided to the employer.

- (b) An employer who violates subdivision (a) shall be subject to a civil penalty of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a first violation and five thousand dollars (\$5,000) up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each subsequent violation. If a court finds that an immigration enforcement agent was permitted to access, review, or obtain the employer's employee records without the consent of the employer or other person in control of the place of labor, the civil penalty shall not apply. "Violation" means each incident when it is found that subdivision (a) was violated without reference to the number of employees, the number of immigration enforcement agents involved in the incident, or the number of employee records accessed, reviewed, or obtained.
- (c) The exclusive authority to enforce this section is granted to the Labor Commissioner or the Attorney General and enforcement shall be through civil action. Any penalty recovered shall be deposited in the Labor Enforcement and Compliance Fund.
- (d) This section applies to public and private employers.

(Added by Stats. 2017, Ch. 492, Sec. 2. (AB 450) Effective January 1, 2018.)

7285.3. In accordance with state and federal law, nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted, construed, or applied to restrict or limit an employer's compliance with a memorandum of understanding governing the use of the federal E-Verify system.

(Added by Stats. 2017, Ch. 492, Sec. 3. (AB 450) Effective January 1, 2018.)