

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-3903 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Human Rights*
3 *Act; causes of action for age discrimination.*

4 [S 587]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 2.2-3903 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 2.2-3903. Causes of action not created.**

9 A. Nothing in this chapter or in Article 4 (§ 2.2-520 et seq.) of Chapter 5 creates, nor shall it be
10 construed to create, an independent or private cause of action to enforce its provisions, except as
11 specifically provided in subsections B and C.

12 B. No employer employing more than five but less than 15 persons shall discharge any such
13 employee on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related
14 medical conditions, including lactation; ~~or of age if the employee is 40 years of age or older.~~ *No*
15 *employer employing more than five but less than 20 persons shall discharge any such employee on the*
16 *basis of age if the employee is 40 years of age or older.* For the purposes of this section, "lactation"
17 means a condition that may result in the feeding of a child directly from the breast or the expressing of
18 milk from the breast.

19 C. The employee may bring an action in a general district or circuit court having jurisdiction over
20 the employer who allegedly discharged the employee in violation of this section. Any such action shall
21 be brought within 300 days from the date of the discharge or, if the employee has filed a complaint
22 with the Division of Human Rights of the Department of Law or a local human rights or human
23 relations agency or commission within 300 days of the discharge, such action shall be brought within 90
24 days from the date that the Division or a local human rights or human relations agency or commission
25 has rendered a final disposition on the complaint. The court may award up to 12 months' back pay with
26 interest at the judgment rate as provided in § 6.2-302. However, if the court finds that either party
27 engaged in tactics to delay resolution of the complaint, it may (i) diminish the award or (ii) award back
28 pay to the date of judgment without regard to the 12-month limitation.

29 In any case where the employee prevails, the court shall award attorney fees from the amount
30 recovered, not to exceed 25 percent of the back pay awarded. The court shall not award other damages,
31 compensatory or punitive, nor shall it order reinstatement of the employee.

32 D. Causes of action based upon the public policies reflected in this chapter shall be exclusively
33 limited to those actions, procedures, and remedies, if any, afforded by applicable federal or state civil
34 rights statutes or local ordinances. Nothing in this section or § 2.2-3900 shall be deemed to alter,
35 supersede, or otherwise modify the authority of the Division or of any local human rights or human
36 relations commissions established pursuant to § 15.2-853 or 15.2-965.

ENROLLED

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