

Summary of New York State Whistleblower Laws

State	Citation	Covers	Provisions
NY	Labor Law §740 & Civil Service Law §75-b	public and private employers	Public and private employers cannot discipline or take retaliatory action against employees who disclose or threaten to disclose activities, policies or practices that violate laws or regulations or threaten public health or safety. The protections extend to public employees who disclose to a governmental body information that they reasonably believe to be an improper governmental action. Aggrieved employees can sue for reinstatement, back-pay and benefits and may be entitled to courts costs and attorney fees. A prevailing employer may recover court costs and attorney fees if the suit is not based on law or fact.

NOTES:

1. From the National Conference of State Legislators, updated November, 2009
2. In addition to the above State laws, there are numerous Federal laws with whistleblower protections that apply to public and private employers. An overview of federal provisions can be found on the U.S. Dept. of Labor website at: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/compliance/comp-whistleblower.htm>.