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## Cuomo Approves Labor Protections For Unpaid Interns

A measure that would extend civil-rights and workplace protections including the ability to bring lawsuits over sexual harassment to unpaid interns was signed into law Tuesday by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The new law, which takes effect immediately, would extend anti-discrimination protections to unpaid interns when it comes to hiring, firing, or terms of employment – as well as retaliation.

Prohibitions against sexual harassment of interns by employers is also codified, including both quid pro quo and creating a hostile environment.

The measure is approved about a year after a state court ruled that unpaid interns are not protected by anti-sexual harassment laws.

Extending new labor protections to unpaid interns stemmed from a lawsuit filed by Lihuan Wang, a New York-based intern at Phoenix Satellite Television U.S.

A state judge determined that Wang couldn't bring the case due to her status as an unpaid intern because she lacked the status of a regular employee.

The new law was one of 91 bills approved on Tuesday by Cuomo.

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