

New Jersey Poised to Become First State that Mandates Severance for Lay Offs

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The Garden State's lawmakers approved a bill that would compel employers to give more notice and pay severance to laid-off workers. The bill, which only applies to employers with 100 or more full- or part-time workers laying off 50 or more people could be the first of its kind in the country. In an interview with *The Washington Post*, New Jersey attorney Alvaro Hasani said the bill could have broad consequences. For one, it could undercut employers' ability to require a "release of claims," or an agreement in exchange for severance pay that employees will not sue. While that has typically been standard, "what's unclear is whether that can be a continuing practice given the law," Alvaro explained.

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