

# Rhode Island Governor Signs Ban on Nondisclosure, Non-Disparagement Agreements

June 30, 2023



Ali Khorsand

Boston

Author



Zachary V. Zagger

New York

Author

Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee has signed a bill that prohibits the use of nondisclosure or non-disparagement agreements regarding civil rights abuses “as a condition of employment.” According to a recent update to the legislature’s website, the bill was signed on June 22, 2023.

## Quick Hits

- ▶ The Rhode Island governor signed a bill that prohibits employers from requiring employees enter into nondisclosure or non-disparagement agreements.
- ▶ The new law took effect immediately.

The law, [Senate Bill \(S\) 0342](#), prohibits employers from requiring employees to sign a nondisclosure or non-disparagement provision “concerning alleged violations of civil rights or alleged unlawful conduct, or any agreement with a clause that requires alleged violations of civil rights remain confidential.” Under the law, any contractual provision that violates this prohibition is “void as a violation of public policy.” The new law took effect immediately.

Ogletree Deakins previously covered the passage of S0324 in our story, [“Rhode Island Nondisclosure Agreements Bill Moves to Governor; Senate Passes New Noncompete Ban”](#), which indicated that the bill had been sent to the governor’s desk.

A separate Rhode Island bill to prohibit noncompetition agreements between a buyer and a seller of a business that recently passed the state Senate is still under consideration in the state House.

Ogletree Deakins will continue to monitor developments and will provide updates on the [Rhode Island](#) and [Unfair Competition and Trade Secrets](#) blogs as additional information becomes available.

## Follow and Subscribe

[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Webinars](#) | [Podcasts](#)