
By: Senators Kelley, Lawlah, Forehand, Hughes, Trotter, Blount, McFadden, Young, and Hollinger

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1996

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Relations Commission - Discrimination - Volunteer Organizations**

3 FOR the purpose of making it unlawful for certain volunteer organizations engaged in
4 certain public activities to discriminate against individuals based on certain factors
5 in the granting of the privileges, advantages, or services for which the organization
6 is responsible; prohibiting such volunteer organizations from denying membership
7 and participation rights to individuals based on certain factors; defining a certain
8 term; and generally relating to the prohibition against discrimination against
9 individuals because of certain factors by certain volunteer organizations under the
10 Human Relations Commission Law.

11 BY adding to

12 Article 49B - Human Relations Commission
13 Section 39A to be under the new subtitle "Discrimination by Volunteer
14 Organizations"
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article 49B - Human Relations Commission**

20 **DISCRIMINATION BY VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS**

21 39A.

22 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION" MEANS A BOARD,
23 COMMISSION, OR OTHER ENTITY ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE, OR ASSIST IN
24 PROVIDING, GOODS OR SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC IF:

25 (1) THE ENTITY IS CREATED BY STATUTE, REGULATION, EXECUTIVE
26 ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR, OR BY OTHER LAWFUL ACT OF A FEDERAL, STATE, OR
27 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT AND IS GRANTED DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY, OR
28 ACTS AS A PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE PERSON OR GOVERNMENT UNIT WITH SUCH

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1 AUTHORITY, TO EXERCISE QUASI-JUDICIAL, REGULATORY, LICENSING,
2 INSPECTION, OR AUDITING FUNCTIONS;

3 (2) THE MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY ARE APPOINTED OR ELECTED
4 PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE DELIVERY OF GOODS OR
5 SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC; AND

6 (3) THE MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY, SOLELY BY VIRTUE OF THAT
7 MEMBERSHIP, QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS, INCLUDING:

8 (I) THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN A STATE, COUNTY, OR
9 MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT RETIREMENT SYSTEM OR PLAN;

10 (II) ELIGIBILITY FOR A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL
11 GOVERNMENT DISABILITY PENSION; OR

12 (III) ELIGIBILITY FOR ANY STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL
13 GOVERNMENT TAX BENEFIT.

14 (B) SUBJECT TO § 18 OF THIS ARTICLE, IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A VOLUNTEER
15 ORGANIZATION, OR AN AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION,
16 BECAUSE OF THE RACE, CREED, SEX, AGE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, MARITAL
17 STATUS, OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HANDICAP OF ANY PERSON:

18 (1) TO REFUSE, WITHHOLD FROM, OR DENY TO SUCH PERSON ANY OF
19 THE PRIVILEGES, ADVANTAGES, OR SERVICES FOR WHICH THE ORGANIZATION IS
20 RESPONSIBLE; OR

21 (2) TO REFUSE, WITHHOLD FROM, OR DENY TO SUCH PERSON THE
22 OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AND FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE
23 ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 1996.