Unofficial Copy D5 HB 315/99 - JUD

By: Delegate Hixson, the Speaker (Administration), and Delegates R. Baker, Barkley, Barve, Bobo, Bronrott, Brown, Clagett, Cryor, Doory, Finifter, Franchot, Grosfeld, Hammen, Harrison, Hecht, Heller, Howard, Hubbard, Hurson, A. Jones, V. Jones, Kagan, Kopp, McIntosh, Mandel, Marriott, Menes, Montague, Nathan-Pulliam, Patterson, Pendergrass, Petzold, Rosenberg, Shriver, Turner, and Zirkin Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2001

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments House action: Adopted Read second time: March 25, 2001

CHAPTER_____

1 AN ACT concerning

2

Antidiscrimination Act of 2001

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation with

4 regard to public accommodations, housing, and employment; making certain

5 remedies and procedures regarding discrimination applicable to discrimination

6 based on sexual orientation; making certain exemptions from certain provisions

of law that prohibit certain discrimination applicable to provisions of this Act
 regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation; providing immunity from

regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation; providing immunity from
 liability for certain acts taken by employers in response to certain charges;

10 defining "sexual orientation"; making certain technical changes; providing for

11 the construction and application of this Act; and generally relating to

12 discrimination based on sexual orientation.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article 49B - Human Relations Commission

15 Section 5, 8(a), 14, 16, 18, 19(a), 20(t), 21(a), 22(a), 23, and 37(a)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

- 19 Article 49B Human Relations Commission
- 20 Section 15(h) and 20(u)

1 Annotated Code of Maryland

2 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 4 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

5

Article 49B - Human Relations Commission

6 5.

7 (a) IN THIS SUBHEADING, "SEXUAL ORIENTATION" MEANS THE 8 IDENTIFICATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL AS TO MALE OR FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY, 9 HETEROSEXUALITY, OR BISEXUALITY.

10 (B) It is unlawful for an owner or operator of a place of public accommodation 11 or an agent or employee of the owner or operator, because of the race, creed, sex, age, 12 color, national origin, marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability of any 13 person, to refuse, withhold from, or deny to such person any of the accommodations,

14 advantages, facilities and privileges of such place of public accommodation.

15 [(b)] (C) Nothing in this section shall be construed or interpreted to prohibit 16 the proprietor of any establishment, or the employees of the establishment, from the 17 right to deny service to any person for failure to conform to the usual and regular

18 requirements, standards and regulations for the establishment so long as the denial

19 is not based upon discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, age, color, creed,

20 national origin, marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability.

21 [(c)] (D) For the purpose of this subtitle, a place of public accommodation 22 means:

(1) Any inn, hotel, motel, or other establishment which provides lodging
to transient guests, other than an establishment located within a building which
contains not more than five rooms for rent or hire and which is actually occupied by

26 the proprietor of such establishment as the proprietor's residence;

27 (2) Any restaurant, cafeteria, lunchroom, lunch counter, soda fountain,

28 or other facility principally engaged in selling food or alcoholic beverages for

29 consumption on or off the premises, including, but not limited to, any such facility

30 located on the premises of any retail establishment; or any gasoline station;

31 (3) Any motion picture house, theater, concert hall, sports arena,
32 stadium or other place of exhibition or entertainment; and

33 (4) Any establishment which:

34 (i) 1. Is physically located within the premises of any
35 establishment otherwise covered by this section; or

3637 establishment otherwise covered by this section; and

1 2	establishment.	(ii)	Which holds itself out as serving patrons of such covered		
3 4	[(d)] (E) accommodation" also	(1) means ar	For the purposes of this section, a "place of public ny establishment that:		
5		(i)	Is operated by a public or private entity;		
6		(ii)	Is not included in subsection [(c)] (D) of this section; and		
7 8	entertainment, recreat	(iii) ion, or tra	Is a retail establishment, whether offering goods, services, ansportation.		
11 12 13	 (2) This section does not require structural changes, modifications, or additions to buildings or vehicles, except as required by this paragraph or as otherwise required by law. In addition, any building constructed, modified or altered in compliance with, or pursuant to a waiver from, the Maryland Building Code for the Handicapped under Article 83B, § 6-102 of the Code shall not be subject to this section. 				
	special equipment is accommodation shall	-	When structural changes, modifications, or the provision of to accommodate an individual with a disability, the onable".		
21	patronage by a person	n without	1. "Reasonable accommodation" for the purposes of this blic accommodation suitable for access, use, and danger to the person's health or safety and without a business or other activity making such an		
25 26 27	any requirement to sa expense of \$2,500 pe 10 percent of the tota	atisfy the r operatin l operatir	2. With respect to a private motor coach transportation s subsection, "reasonable accommodation" means that provisions of this article will not exceed a maximum is vehicle. However, beginning January 1, 1990, at least is fleet of any private motor coach transportation tate shall comply with the provisions of this article.		
31 32 33	making this determin consult with the Dep others as may be used	ation for artment o ful as to t	3. The Human Relations Commission shall make a nce whether an accommodation is "reasonable". In buildings, the Human Relations Commission may f Housing and Community Development and such he cost and feasibility of any structural changes, e provision of special equipment.		
35	$[(\mathbf{a})]$ (F)	The pro	visions of this section shall not apply to a private club or other		

35 [(e)] (F) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a private club or other 36 establishment not in fact open to the public, except to the extent that the facilities of 37 such establishments are made available to the customers or patrons of an 38 establishment within the scope of this section.

1 [(f)] (G) With respect to sex discrimination, this section may not be construed 2 to apply to those facilities which are uniquely private and personal in nature, 3 designed to accommodate only a particular sex. 4 If the Commission finds that a respondent has engaged in an [(g)] (H) (1)5 unlawful practice under this section, in addition to other relief authorized, the 6 Commission may seek an order assessing a civil penalty against the respondent: 7 If the respondent has not been adjudged to have committed any (i) 8 prior discriminatory practice, in an amount not exceeding \$500; 9 If the respondent has been adjudged to have committed 1 other (ii) 10 discriminatory practice during the 5-year period ending on the date of the filing of 11 this charge, in an amount not exceeding \$1,000; and 12 (iii) If the respondent has been adjudged to have committed 2 or 13 more discriminatory practices during the 7-year period ending on the date of the 14 filing of this charge, in an amount not exceeding \$2,500. 15 If the acts constituting the discriminatory practice are committed by (2)16 the same natural person who has been previously adjudged to have committed 17 discriminatory practices, then the civil penalties set forth in [subsections (g)(1)(ii) 18 and (iii)] SUBSECTION (H)(1)(II) AND (III) may be imposed without regard to the period of time within which any subsequent discriminatory practice occurred. 19

20(3)All civil penalties shall be paid to the General Fund of the State of21 Maryland.

22 8.

23 (a) It is unlawful for any person, business, corporation, partnership, 24 copartnership or association or any other individual, agent, employee, group or firm 25 which is licensed or regulated by a unit in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and 26 Regulation as set out in § 2-108 of the Business Regulation Article to refuse, withhold 27 from, deny or discriminate against any person the accommodations, advantages, 28 facilities, privileges, sales, or services because of the race, sex, creed, color, national 29 origin, marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability of any person. Nothing in 30 this section shall be construed or interpreted to prohibit any person, business, 31 corporation, partnership, copartnership, association or any other individual, agent, 32 employee, group or firm which is licensed or regulated by the Department of Labor, 33 Licensing, and Regulation from the right to refuse, withhold from, or deny any person 34 for failure to conform to the usual and regular requirements, standards, and 35 regulations of any person, business, corporation, partnership, copartnership, or 36 association contemplated by this section so long as the denial is not based upon 37 discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, color, creed, [or] national origin, marital

38 status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability.

1 14.

2 It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Maryland, in the exercise of

3 its police power for the protection of the public safety, public health and general

4 welfare, for the maintenance of business and good government and for the promotion

5 of the State's trade, commerce and manufacturers to assure all persons equal

6 opportunity in receiving employment and in all labor management-union relations

7 regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status,

8 SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to

9 reasonably preclude the performance of the employment, and to that end to prohibit

10 discrimination in employment by any person, group, labor organization, organization

11 or any employer or his agents.

12 15.

13 For the purposes of this subtitle:

14 (H) "SEXUAL ORIENTATION" MEANS THE IDENTIFICATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL 15 AS TO MALE OR FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY, HETEROSEXUALITY, OR BISEXUALITY.

16 16.

17 (a) It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer:

18 (1) To fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to

19 discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms,

20 conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color,

21 religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability

22 unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the

23 employment; or

(2) To limit, segregate, or classify his employees or applicants for
employment in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of
employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee,
because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital
status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to

29 reasonably preclude the performance of the employment.

30 (b) It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employment agency to

31 fail or refuse to refer for employment, or otherwise to discriminate against, any

32 individual because of his race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status,

33 SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to

34 reasonably preclude the performance of the employment, or to classify or refer for

35 employment any individual on the basis of his race, color, religion, sex, age, national 36 origin, marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability unrelated in nature and

37 extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment.

38 (c) It shall be an unlawful employment practice for a labor organization: (1) to 39 exclude or to expel from its membership, or otherwise to discriminate against, any 40 individual because of his race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status,

1 SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to

2 reasonably preclude the performance of the employment; (2) to limit, segregate or

3 classify its membership, or to classify or fail or refuse to refer for employment any

4 individual, in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of

5 employment opportunities, or would limit such employment opportunities or

6 otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee or as an applicant for

7 employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national

8 origin, marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability unrelated in nature and

9 extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment; or (3) to 10 cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate against an individual in

11 violation of this section.

(d) It shall be an unlawful employment practice for any employer, labor
organization, or joint labor-management committee controlling apprenticeship or
other training or retraining, including on-the-job training programs to discriminate
against any individual because of his race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin,
marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or disability unrelated in nature or extent so
as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment in admission to, or
employment in, any program established to provide apprenticeship or other training.

19 It is an unlawful employment practice for an employer, labor organization, (e) 20 or employment agency to print or cause to be printed or published any notice or advertisement relating to employment by the employer or membership in or any 21 classification or referral for employment by the labor organization, or relating to any 22 classification or referral for employment by the agency, indicating any preference, 23 24 limitation, specification, or discrimination, based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or on the basis of a disability. However, a 25 26 notice or advertisement may indicate a preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on religion, sex, age, national origin or disability when religion, 27 28 sex, age, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification for 29 employment.

30 (f) It is an unlawful employment practice for an employer to discriminate 31 against any of his employees or applicants for employment, for an employment agency 32 to discriminate against any individual, or for a labor organization to discriminate 33 against any member thereof or applicant for membership, because he has opposed 34 any practice made an unlawful employment practice by this subtitle or because he 35 has made a charge, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an 36 investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this subtitle.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, (1) it is not an unlawful employment practice for an employer to hire and employ employees, for an employment agency to classify, or refer for employment any individual, for a labor organization to classify its membership or to classify or refer for employment any individual, or for an employer, labor organization or joint labor-management committee controlling apprenticeship or other training or retraining programs to admit or employ any individual in any such program, on the basis of his religion, national origin or disability in those instances where sex, age, religion, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the

1 normal operation of that particular business or enterprise; (2) it is not an unlawful 2 employment practice for an employer to establish standards concerning an employee's 3 dress and grooming if the standards are directly related to the nature of the 4 employment of the employee; (3) it is not an unlawful employment practice for a 5 school, college, university, or other educational institution or institution of learning to 6 hire and employ employees of a particular religion if the school, college, university, or 7 other educational institution or institution of learning is, in whole or in substantial 8 part, owned, supported, controlled, or managed by a particular religion or by a 9 particular religious corporation, association, or society or if the curriculum of the 10 school, college, university, or other educational institution or institution of learning is 11 directed toward the propagation of a particular religion; and (4) it is not unlawful for 12 an employer, employment agency or labor organization to observe the terms of a bona 13 fide seniority system or any bona fide employee benefit plan such as a retirement, 14 pension or insurance plan, which is not a subterfuge to evade the purposes of this 15 subtitle; however, no employee benefit plan shall excuse the failure to hire any 16 individual.

17 (h) Nothing contained in this subtitle shall be interpreted to require any 18 employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint labor-management 19 committee subject to this subtitle to grant preferential treatment to any individual or 20 to any group because of the race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, SEXUAL 21 ORIENTATION, or disability of the individual or group on account of an imbalance 22 which may exist with respect to the total number or percentage of persons of any race, 23 color, religion, sex, age, national origin, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or persons with 24 disabilities employed by any employer, referred or classified for employment by any 25 employment agency or labor organization, admitted to membership or classified by 26 any labor agency or labor organization, admitted to membership or classified by any 27 labor organization, or admitted to, or employed in, any apprenticeship or other 28 training program, in comparison with the total number or percentage of persons of 29 such race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or persons 30 with disabilities in any community, State, section, or other area, or in the available 31 work force in any community, State, section, or other area.

32 (I) AN EMPLOYER SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM LIABILITY, UNDER THIS ARTICLE 33 OR UNDER THE COMMON LAW, ARISING OUT OF THE EMPLOYER'S REASONABLE ACTS 34 TO VERIFY THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF ANY EMPLOYEE OR APPLICANT TAKEN BY 35 THE EMPLOYER IN RESPONSE TO A CHARGE FILED AGAINST THE EMPLOYER ON THE 36 BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

37 18.

38 This subtitle shall not apply to:

39 (1) [an] AN employer with respect to the employment of aliens outside of 40 the State[, or to]; OR

41 (2) [a] A religious corporation, association, educational institution or 42 society with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion OR

 $1 \hspace{0.1 cm} \text{SEXUAL ORIENTATION to perform work connected with the carrying on by such} \\$

2 corporation, association, educational institution or society of its activities.

3 19.

4 It is the policy of the State of Maryland to provide for fair housing (a) 5 throughout the State of Maryland, to all its citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, 6 sex, familial status, national origin, marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or 7 disability; and to that end to prohibit discriminatory practices with respect to 8 residential housing by any person or group of persons, in order that the peace, health, 9 safety, prosperity and general welfare of all the inhabitants of the State may be 10 protected and insured. 11 20. 12 (t) "Restrictive covenants" means any specification limiting the transfer, 13 rental, or lease of any dwelling because of race, color, religion, marital status, SEXUAL 14 ORIENTATION, sex, familial status, disability, or national origin. 15 "SEXUAL ORIENTATION" MEANS THE IDENTIFICATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL (U) 16 AS TO MALE OR FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY, HETEROSEXUALITY, OR BISEXUALITY. 17 21.

18 (a) This subtitle does not apply to:

19	(1)	The sale or rental of a single family dwelling, if the dwelling is sold or
20 rented w	vithout:	

21 (i) The use of the sales or rental facilities or service	es of any:
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1. Real estate broker, agent, or salesman;

23 2. Agent of any real estate broker, agent, or salesman;

24 3. Person in the business of selling or renting dwellings; or

254.Agent of a person in the business of selling or renting26 dwellings; or

27 (ii) The publication, posting, or mailing, after notice, of any
28 advertisement or written notice in violation of this subtitle; and

29 (2) With respect to discrimination on the basis of [either] sex, SEXUAL
30 ORIENTATION, or marital status:

(i) The rental of rooms in any dwelling, if the owner maintains the
 32 dwelling as the owner's principal residence; or

1 (ii) The rental of any apartment in a dwelling that contains no more 2 than 5 rental units, if the owner maintains the dwelling as the owner's principal 3 residence.

4 22.

5 (a) Except as provided in § 21 of this subtitle, it is unlawful:

6 (1) To refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, or to 7 refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a 8 dwelling to any person because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, 9 familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin;

10 (2) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or 11 privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in 12 connection with the sale or rental of a dwelling, because of race, color, religion, sex,

13 disability, marital status, familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin;

(3) To make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published
any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale or rental of a
dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race,
color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION,
or national origin, or an intention to make any preference, limitation, or
discrimination;
(4) To represent to any person because of race, color, religion, sex,
disability, marital status, familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin
that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when the dwelling is
in fact available;

(5) For profit, to induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent
any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective entry into the
neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, color, religion, sex, disability,
marital status, familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin;

28 (6) To discriminate in the sale or rental, or otherwise make unavailable 29 or deny, a dwelling to any buyer or renter because of a disability of:

30 (i) The buyer or renter; or

31 (ii) A person residing in or intending to reside in the dwelling after
32 it is so sold, rented, or made available;

(7) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or
 privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in
 connection with the dwelling, because of a disability of:

36 (i) The person; or

1 (ii) A person residing in or intending to reside in the dwelling after 2 it is so sold, rented, or made available;

3 (8) To refuse to permit, at the expense of the person with a disability, 4 reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by the 5 individual if:

6 (i) The modifications may be necessary to afford the person with a 7 disability full enjoyment of the dwelling; and

8 (ii) For a rental dwelling, the tenant agrees, at the tenant's 9 expense, to restore, reasonable wear and tear excepted, the interior of the dwelling to 10 the condition that existed before the modification on vacating the dwelling;

11 (9) To refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, 12 practices, or services when the accommodations may be necessary to afford an 13 individual with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; or

14 (10) To fail to design or construct a covered multifamily dwelling for first 15 occupancy as required under subsection (b) of this section.

16 23.

17 (a) (1) It is unlawful for any person or other entity whose business includes

18 engaging in residential real estate related transactions to discriminate against any

19 person in making available a transaction, or in the terms or conditions of a

20 transaction, because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial

21 status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin.

22 (2) Nothing in paragraph (1) of this subsection prohibits a person

23 engaged in the business of furnishing appraisals of real property to take into

24 consideration factors other than race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability,

25 marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or familial status.

(b) It is unlawful, because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital
status, familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin, to deny a person
access to or membership or participation in a multiple-listing service, real estate
brokers' organization or other service, organization, or facility relating to the business
of selling or renting dwellings, or to discriminate against a person in the terms or
conditions of membership or participation.

32 37.

(a) Whether or not acting under color of law it is unlawful for any person, by
force or threat of force, to willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, or attempt to
injure, intimidate, or interfere with:

36 (1) Any person because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital
37 status, familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin and because the
38 person is or has been:

	(i) Selling, purchasing, renting, financing, occupying, or contracting or negotiating for the sale, purchase, rental, financing, or occupation of any dwelling; or
4 5	(ii) Applying for or participating in any service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings; [or]
6 7	(2) Any person because the person is or has been, or in order to intimidate the person or any other person or any class of persons from:
10	(i) Participating without discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin in any of the activities, services, organizations, or facilities described in paragraph (1) of this subsection; or
	(ii) Affording another person or class of persons the opportunity or protection to participate in any of the activities, services, organizations or facilities described in paragraph (1) of this subsection; or
15 16	(3) Any person because the person is or has been, or in order to discourage the person or any other person from:
19 20	(i) Lawfully aiding or encouraging other persons to participate, without discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin, in any of the activities, services, organizations, or facilities described in paragraph (1) of this subsection; or
	(ii) Participating lawfully in speech or peaceful assembly opposing any denial of the opportunity to participate in any of the activities, services, organizations or facilities described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.
25	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act:
26 27	(1) may not be construed to authorize or validate a marriage between two individuals of the same sex;
28 29	(2) <u>may not be construed to require or prohibit an employer to offer</u> <u>health insurance benefits to unmarried domestic partners;</u>
	(3) does not mandate any public or private educational institution to promote any form of sexuality or sexual orientation or to include such matters in its curriculum; and
33 34	(4) is intended to ensure specific defined rights and not to endorse or confer legislative approval of any form of sexual behavior.

35 <u>SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act does not apply to</u>
 36 the Boy Scouts of America or the Girl Scouts of America with respect to the

employment of individuals of a particular sexual orientation to perform work
 <u>connected with the activities of those organizations.</u>

- 3 SECTION 2. <u>4.</u> AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take 4 effect October 1, 2001.