

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 527

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission – Equal Treatment

This bill alters the duties of the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission by repealing statutory language that explicitly requires the commission to encourage and ensure equal treatment of all people, *without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or physical or mental disability*, in compliance with specified laws and regulations. The bill also requires the commission to maintain a list on a publicly accessible website of protected classes of people in federal, State, and local laws and regulations related to housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains exclusively to local government operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect finances or operations in St. Mary's County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Under current law, the commission is required to use its influence and persuasion to direct the efforts of the community to solving problems that many times are the basic reasons for racial tensions. In addition, the commission must encourage and ensure equal treatment of all people, *without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or physical or mental disability*, in compliance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations related to housing,

employment, and public accommodations. The bill eliminates the explicit reference to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or physical or mental disability.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Commission on Civil Rights; St. Mary's County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2021
rh/jkb Third Reader - March 23, 2021
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