

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 748
Judiciary

(Delegate Cardin, *et al.*)

State Government – Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention –
Code of Conduct

This bill requires the Attorney General to adopt (and make publicly available) a code of conduct for members of the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention and a policy for investigating any violations. The Attorney General may suspend a commission member pending the results of an investigation and may remove a member who, after an investigation, is found to be in violation. The Attorney General must establish a process for the public to report alleged violations of the code of conduct. By December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General must report to the General Assembly on any investigations conducted under the bill’s provisions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) can implement the bill with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 773 of 2023 established the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention to (1) develop strategies to prevent and respond to hate crime activity and (2) evaluate State laws and policies relating to hate crimes. The commission consists of 22 members appointed by the Attorney General for staggered terms of four years. The Attorney General (or designee) is the chair of the commission, which is staffed by OAG.

Commission members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2024
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