

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 68 (Delegate Hixson. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Antidiscrimination Act

This bill prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation with regard to public accommodations, labor and employment, and housing. Current law prohibits discrimination in these areas on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, religion, national origin, marital status, and physical or mental handicap.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Although the bill may result in additional cases for the Judiciary, the Human Relations Commission, and the Office of Administrative Hearings, any increase in workload is expected to be minimal and could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. This bill exposes small businesses to lawsuits arising out of discrimination claims based on sexual orientation.

Information Sources: Human Relations Commission; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 4, 1998

Inc

Analysis by: Jo Ellan Jordan

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710