

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 47 (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.

The bill exempts: (1) religious organizations from provisions of the bill relating to employment discrimination based on sexual orientation; and (2) renters of rooms or apartments in an owner’s principal residence from provisions of the bill relating to housing discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: While 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 handled within existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Discrimination is prohibited with regard to public accommodations, labor and employment, and housing on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, religion, national origin, marital status, and physical or mental disability.

Background: The Maryland Human Relations Commission has approximately 40 cases annually in which the commission finds probable cause that discrimination occurred. Of

these, approximately ten are adjudicated, either by the Office of Administrative Hearings or in the circuit courts.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Identical legislation, HB 315 was introduced in the 1999 session; the bill passed the House but was not reported out of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Similar bills, HB 68 and HB 431 were introduced in the 1998 and 1997 sessions, respectively, and received unfavorable reports by the House Judiciary Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of Administrative Hearings, Governor's Office, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Human Relations Commission, Department of Legislative Services

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