

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 89

(Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee)(By Request -  
Departmental - Human Relations Commission)

Judicial Proceedings

---

**Maryland Commission on Human Relations - Name Change**

---

This departmental bill changes the name of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any minimal printing costs associated with the name change can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Commission on Human Relations (MCHR) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

---

**Analysis**

**Background:** MCHR is the State agency charged with the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and State contracting. MCHR works to ensure equal opportunity to all citizens of Maryland by engaging in the investigation, mediation, and litigation of discrimination complaints in administrative and State court proceedings. The name change is proposed to better reflect the work being done by MCHR.

In addition, MCHR advises that the proposed name change is needed to clarify confusion about the work of MCHR that exists in the general public. MCHR regularly receives

requests for assistance with various issues ranging from social services to human resources. These inquiries, which are not within its jurisdiction, can be numerous and consume staff time that should be devoted to the true mission of MCHR. MCHR believes the proposed name change will help to alleviate this confusion and reduce the number of inquires.

MCHR has undergone several name changes since its inception. It originated in 1927 as the Interracial Commission (Chapter 559 of 1927). In 1943, it became the Commission to Study Problems Affecting the Colored Population (Chapter 431 of 1943). Renamed the Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations in 1951, it reorganized as the Commission on Human Relations in 1969 (Chapter 54 of 1951; Chapter 83 of 1968).

MCHR is comprised of nine members. They are appointed to six-year terms by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor appoints the Executive Director from a list of names submitted by the commission.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Human Relations Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 14, 2010  
ncs/kdm

---

Analysis by: Jennifer K. Botts

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510

## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Maryland Commission on Human Relations – Name Change

BILL NUMBER: SB 89

PREPARED BY: Maryland Commission on Human Relations

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.