

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 211

(Chair, Health and Government Operations  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Human  
Relations Commission)

Health and Government Operations

Judicial Proceedings

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

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This departmental bill changes the name of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations (MCHR) to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. The bill also requires MCHR to use all the existing letterhead, business cards, and other documents already in print before the bill's effective date prior to using letterhead, business cards, and other documents reflecting the new name.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill prohibits documents with the new name from being used until all existing documents have been used, therefore the bill will not result in any additional printing costs.

**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. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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**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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 89 of 2010 received an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2011  
mm/kdm Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2011

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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: HB 211

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.