

# HOUSE BILL 1077

P1, C8

2lr2499

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By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, Landis, Toles, Turner, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Housing and Community Development – Racial Equity Impact**  
3 **Assessment**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to  
5 annually complete a racial equity impact assessment; requiring the Department to  
6 work with independent experts to complete the assessment and make the  
7 assessment available to the public; and generally relating to racial equity impact  
8 assessments.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Housing and Community Development  
11 Section 1–101(a) and (e)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Housing and Community Development  
16 Section 2–303  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

22 1–101.

23 (a) In this Division I of this article the following words have the meanings  
24 indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (e) (1) “Financial assistance” means any form of assurance, guarantee, grant,  
2 payment, or other assistance.

3 (2) “Financial assistance” includes a loan, loan guarantee, or reduction in  
4 the principal obligations of or rate of interest payable on a loan or portion of a loan.

5 **2-303.**

6 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “RACIAL MINORITY” MEANS:

7 (1) BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN;

8 (2) HISPANIC OR LATINO;

9 (3) AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE;

10 (4) ASIAN; OR

11 (5) NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER.

12 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND EACH DECEMBER 31  
13 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLETE A RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT  
14 ASSESSMENT.

15 (2) THE RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY THIS  
16 SUBSECTION SHALL EVALUATE:

17 (I) THE IMPACT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTERED BY  
18 THE DEPARTMENT ON RACIAL MINORITIES; AND

19 (II) WHETHER THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTERED BY  
20 THE DEPARTMENT IS EQUITABLY INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITIES WITH THE  
21 LARGEST NEED AND THOSE WITH THE LARGEST POPULATION OF ECONOMICALLY  
22 MARGINALIZED PEOPLES.

23 (3) IN CREATING A RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, THE  
24 DEPARTMENT SHALL ENGAGE WITH INDEPENDENT EXPERTS TO DEVELOP A  
25 RIGOROUS ASSESSMENT RUBRIC THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT PREVAILING  
26 EVIDENCE ON THE EFFICACY OF INDICATORS IN GENERATING A FAIR, UNBIASED,  
27 AND BALANCED ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ON RACIAL  
28 MINORITIES.

29 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY  
30 THIS SUBSECTION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2022.