

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 516 (St. Mary's County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission - Equal Treatment

This bill requires the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission, in addition to its existing duties, to encourage and ensure equal treatment of all people (1) without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity and (2) with respect to discrimination in education. The bill also replaces statutory language referring to *racial tensions* with language referring to *tensions within the community*.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains exclusively to local government operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect the finances or operations of St. Mary's County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Under current law, the commission is required to use its influence and persuasion to direct the efforts of the community to solving problems that many times are the basic reasons for racial tensions. The bill replaces *racial tensions* with *tensions within the community*.

Under current law, the commission must encourage and ensure equal treatment of all people, without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or physical or mental disability, in compliance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations related to housing, employment, and public accommodations. In addition

to these existing duties, the bill includes sexual orientation and gender identity as protected statuses; the bill also requires the commission to encourage and ensure equal treatment in accordance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations related to discrimination in education.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Commission on Civil Rights; St. Mary's County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2022
fnu2/jkb Third Reader - March 21, 2022

Analysis by: Tyler Allard

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