

HOUSE BILL 460

P1, C8
HB 1077/22 – ENT

3lr1032

By: **Delegates Taylor, Allen, Charkoudian, Charles, Fair, Grossman, Harris, Henson, Holmes, Ivey, J. Long, Taveras, and Toles**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Department of Housing and Community Development – Racial Equity Impact Assessment

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

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 1–101(a) and (e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 2–303
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

Article – Housing and Community Development

1–101.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

2-303.

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

- (1) BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN;**
- (2) HISPANIC OR LATINO;**
- (3) AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE;**
- (4) ASIAN; OR**
- (5) NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER.**

(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND EACH DECEMBER 31 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLETE A RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

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

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

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

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

(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY

THIS SUBSECTION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2023.