

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 763
Judiciary

(Delegate Attar, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention - Membership

This bill alters the membership of the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention by (1) removing representatives of specified organizations and (2) adding 1 representative from the Office of the Public Defender and 15 individuals who represent (or advocate on behalf of) a protected class under the State hate crime laws, as set forth in Title 10, Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article, and are appointed by the Attorney General with the advice and consent of the Senate. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 773 of 2023 established the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention to (1) develop strategies to prevent and respond to hate crime activity and (2) evaluate State laws and policies relating to hate crimes. The commission consists of 22 members appointed by the Attorney General for staggered terms of four years. The Attorney General (or designee) is the chair of the commission, which is staffed by the Office of the Attorney General. Commission members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses.

The State's hate crime statutes are contained in Title 10, Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article. Statute identifies members of a protected class by prohibiting specified actions by

a person if motivated in whole or in substantial part by another person's or group's race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, national origin, or homelessness.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2024
km/jkb Third Reader - March 26, 2024
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Analysis by: Joanne E. Tetlow

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