



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** Senate Bill 364 - Maryland Commission on Civil Rights - Civil Penalties

**SPONSOR:** Senator Lee

**HEARING DATE:** February 12, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 364 - Maryland Commission on Civil Rights - Civil Penalties**, which specifies when the Maryland Commission of Civil Rights (MCCR) may assess an increased penalty for a discriminatory act committed by an agency or employee of a respondent. The bill also provides the statutory maximum civil penalties the MCCR may assess does not apply to repeat offenders found to be malicious, states when MCCR may not seek a civil penalty against a respondent, and directs any civil penalties collected to the complainant instead of the State General Fund.

The MCCR is the parent organization of the County's Human Relations Commission (HRC). Though the agencies do not work together in terms of enforcement, the ability to impose civil penalties against a respondent who has engaged in some discriminatory act(s) is beneficial to the education, enforcement, and overall deterrence that the HRC seeks to represent within the County.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 364** and asks for a **FAVORABLE**.