

State of Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights

"Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination."



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February 23, 2021

Senate Bill 751 – Southern Maryland - Human Relations Commission POSITION: Support

Dear Chairperson Pinsky, Vice Chairperson Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights ("MCCR"; "The Commission") is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

Senate Bill 751 authorizes Calvert and Charles counties to establish, by local ordinance, human relations commissions in their respective counties. St. Mary's County retains its current statutory authorization for their human relations commission.

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights serves as the statewide enforcement agency of Maryland's anti-discrimination laws. Currently, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties and the City of Baltimore have local human relations commissions, too. Senate Bill 751 permits the Calvert and Charles County Boards of Commissioners to join this network of human relations commissions committed to addressing pressing matters of human and civil rights within their respective counties and throughout the State.

For these reasons and more, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on SB751. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.