



Secular Maryland

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**SB 540 - SUPPORT**

Human Relations - Civil Rights Enforcement - Powers of the Attorney General

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, which is understaffed, pursues individual complaints alleging unlawful discrimination. This bill proposes empowering the office of the Attorney General to challenge, at a broader level and larger scale, more systemic discrimination occurring in industries and marketplaces. Other states, including our neighbors Delaware, West Virginia and Virginia benefit from permitting civil rights enforcement powers for its top prosecutors.

Secular Maryland supports bills like this that assist with protecting innocent groups of citizens who are targeted by people motivated by a biased desire to harm them.

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