

## Testimony Against HB1253

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB1253.

I am against

- establishing the Maryland Department of Social Equity;
- providing for the Secretary of Social Equity; providing for the administration, staffing, purpose, and duties of the Department;
- requiring a unit of State government other than the Department to refer a certain person to the Department;
- providing that the Department is the successor of certain units in regards to the operation of social equity programs; and
- authorizing the Governor to transfer certain positions, associated funds, and unexpended appropriations to the Department.

At a time when the state is facing a \$3 billion budget deficit, which could grow even larger should the federal government make cuts to Medicaid, creating a new Department regardless of the perceived need does not make economic sense. Currently, there are numerous “revenue” bills being proposed just to meet existing programs and pay for huge new programs such as the Red Line and the Education Blue Print.

Maryland citizens already live in a tax hell with mounting energy and food expenses, yet we are being asked to pay even more. Those who can are leaving the State, especially retirees. We may have more unemployed if the federal government eliminates departments, or fires many of its Maryland employees.

The legislature should be looking for ways to curtail state spending instead of expanding it and looking for ways to reduce our tax burden during these inflationary times, instead of increasing our tax burden. Taxing the evil corporations and businesses does not count because we will pay those taxes if we buy their products or use their services.

Creating the Maryland Department of Social Equity is of dubious importance and even if not, it is a luxury we cannot afford.

So please enter an unfavorable report against HB1253.

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