



House of Representatives

File No. 649

General Assembly

February Session, 2000 **(Reprint of File No. 441)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5285
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 19, 2000

An Act Concerning The Commission On Human Rights And Opportunities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 46a-52 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The commission shall consist of nine persons. On and after the
4 effective date of this act, such persons shall be appointed with the
5 advice and consent of either house of the General Assembly. (1) On or
6 before July 15, 1990, the Governor shall appoint five members of the
7 commission, three of whom shall serve for terms of five years and two
8 of whom shall serve for terms of three years. Upon the expiration of
9 such terms, and thereafter, the Governor shall appoint either two or
10 three members, as appropriate, to serve for terms of five years. On or
11 before July 14, 1990, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the
12 minority leader of the Senate, the speaker of the House of
13 Representatives and the minority leader of the House of
14 Representatives shall each appoint one member to serve for a term of
15 three years. Upon the expiration of such terms, and thereafter,

16 members so appointed shall serve for terms of three years. (2) If any
17 vacancy occurs, the appointing authority making the initial
18 appointment shall appoint a person to serve for the remainder of the
19 unexpired term. The Governor shall select one of the members of the
20 commission to serve as chairperson for a term of one year. The
21 commission shall meet at least once during each two-month period
22 and at such other times as the chairperson deems necessary. Special
23 meetings shall be held on the request of a majority of the members of
24 the commission after notice in accordance with the provisions of
25 section 1-225.

26 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 46a-57 of the general statutes is
27 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

28 (d) On or after October 1, 1998, the executive director shall designate
29 one human rights referee to serve as chief human rights referee for a
30 term of one year. The Chief Human Rights Referee shall supervise and
31 assign the human rights referees to conduct hearings on complaints,
32 including complaints for which a trial on the merits has not
33 commenced prior to October 1, 1998, on a rotating basis. The
34 commission, with the approval of the Chief Human Rights Referee,
35 shall adopt regulations and rules of practice in accordance with
36 chapter 54 to ensure consistent procedures governing contested case
37 proceedings.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: Commission On Human Rights and Opportunities, Legislative Management

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

There will be no fiscal impact for the General Assembly or the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) as a result of the passage of this bill. The bill requires either house of the General Assembly to give advice and consent on persons who are appointed to the commission. This can be handled within the anticipated budgetary resources of the General Assembly. The bill requires CHRO to develop regulations to ensure consistent procedures governing contested case procedures. This responsibility can be handled within the anticipated budgetary resources of CHRO.

House "A" is technical in nature and has no fiscal impact.

OLR Amended Bill Analysis

sHB 5285 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires that after September 30, 2000 at least one house of the General Assembly approve appointees to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO). By law, the governor appoints five commissioners and the Senate president pro tempore and minority leader and the House speaker and minority leader appoint one each.

The bill also requires CHRO, with the approval of the chief human rights referee, to adopt regulations and rules to ensure consistent procedures governing contested case proceedings.

*House Amendment "A" requires the approval of either house instead of both houses; requires the chief human rights referee to approve instead of to be consulted about regulations and rules; and requires CHRO to adopt, instead of develop, regulations and rules.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

On April 10, the House referred the bill to the Legislative Management Committee, which reported it out unchanged on April 13.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 12 Nay 0

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 40 Nay 0

Legislative Management Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 15 Nay 0