



# House of Representatives

**File No. 681**

General Assembly

February Session, 2000

**(Reprint of File Nos. 441 and 649)**

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

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 28, 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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof: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 both houses 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27 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof: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, in consultation with the executive director and Chief  
35 Human Rights Referee, shall develop regulations and rules of practice  
36 in accordance with chapter 54 to ensure consistent procedures  
37 governing contested case 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:

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**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 both houses 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 " B " is technical in nature and has no fiscal impact.

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**OLR Amended Bill Analysis**

sHB 5285 (as amended by House "B")\*

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

This bill requires that, after September 30, 2000, both houses 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, in consultation with its executive director and the chief human rights referee, to develop regulations and rules to ensure consistent procedures governing contested case proceedings.

\*House Amendment "B" requires approval of both houses instead of one; requires consultation with, instead of approval by, the chief human rights referee; and adds CHRO's executive director to the consultation process.

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. The House approved House amendment "A" on April 18 and passed the bill as amended that day. The Senate reprinted the amended bill as File 649.

On April 25, the Senate rejected House "A" and passed the bill.

Apparently, this reestablished the version of the bill as reported out of the Judiciary Committee (see File 441). On April 27, the House rejected House "A", adopted House "B" and passed the bill as amended by House "B."

**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