



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 459

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1052

Senate, April 14, 2021

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A DISPARITY STUDY.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than ninety days after
2 the effective date of this section, the Commission on Human Rights and
3 Opportunities shall, in consultation with the Department of
4 Administrative Services, develop and issue a request for proposals for
5 the conducting of a disparity study. The commission, in consultation
6 with the department, shall develop criteria for evaluating proposals
7 relating to conducting such disparity study, including, but not limited
8 to (1) the anticipated cost of completing such a study; (2) the anticipated
9 timeline for completing such a study; and (3) the proposer's experience
10 in conducting and completing such a study. The deadline for
11 responding to the request for proposals shall be not more than sixty
12 days after the issuance of the request for proposals by the commission.

13 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the commission, in consultation
14 with the department, shall evaluate the proposals submitted under

15 subsection (a) of this section and select a proposer to conduct the study.

16 (c) The study conducted under this section shall provide an analysis
17 of existing statistical data concerning the state's set-aside program,
18 established under section 4a-60g of the general statutes, to determine
19 whether its current form achieves the goal of facilitating the
20 participation in state contracts of small contractors and minority
21 business enterprises. The study shall include, but not be limited to, a
22 review of the state's current set-aside program practices and the best
23 practices of other states or governmental entities. The study shall
24 examine:

25 (1) Whether, based on available data and analysis, there is significant
26 statistical evidence of past or continuing discrimination in the awarding
27 of state contracts;

28 (2) The number of small contractors or minority business enterprises,
29 based on available data and analysis, that are qualified for eligibility for
30 state contracts under the set-aside program established under section
31 4a-60g of the general statutes, and a determination of whether such
32 businesses are legitimate small contractors or legitimately owned by
33 members of a minority, as defined in section 32-9n of the general
34 statutes; and

35 (3) The state's contracting processes, to determine if there are any
36 contracting practices or unintentional but existing barriers in the
37 processes that prevent small contractors and minority business
38 enterprises from fully participating in such contracting processes.

39 (d) The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and
40 Opportunities shall submit the findings of such study and any
41 recommendations for legislative action concerning such study, in
42 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to
43 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
44 of matters relating to government administration and labor.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Sec. 1(c)(3), the two references to "process" were changed to "processes" for internal consistency.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Human Rights & Opportunities, Com.	GF - Cost	Up to 1,000,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires: 1) the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), in consultation with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), to conduct a disparity study, and 2) the executive director of CHRO to submit findings of such study and any recommendations by January 1, 2022.

In order to conduct the disparity study, CHRO will need to hire a consultant as CHRO and DAS do not have the expertise to conduct the study. The consultant will need to purchase statistical data in addition to the data provided by CHRO and DAS. The completion of the study will result in a cost of up to \$1 million in FY 22.

The last time the state funded a disparity study was in FY 13. The state contracted with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) for \$500,000 to conduct a disparity study.

The Out Years

As this is a one-time cost in FY 22, there is no fiscal impact in the out years.



OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1052

AN ACT CONCERNING A DISPARITY STUDY.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/29/2021)