



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 524

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 1073

Senate, April 19, 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 bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Administrative Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office
3 of Policy and Management, the Commission on Human Rights and
4 Opportunities and department heads, as defined in section 4-5 of the
5 general statutes, shall study methods for assessing whether state agency
6 policies and actions create or exacerbate barriers to full and equal
7 participation by all eligible individuals. Such study shall identify the
8 best methods, consistent with applicable law, to assist state agencies in
9 assessing equity with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, income,
10 geography, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability.

11 (b) As part of such study, the Commissioner of Administrative
12 Services shall consider whether to recommend legislation to create pilot
13 programs to test model assessment tools and assist state agencies in

14 doing so.

15 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Each department head, as defined in
16 section 4-5 of the general statutes, shall, in consultation with the
17 Commissioner of Administrative Services, select certain programs and
18 policies of such department head's state agency for a review to assess
19 whether underserved communities and their members face systemic
20 barriers in accessing benefits and opportunities available pursuant to
21 those policies and programs. Not later than December 1, 2021, each
22 department head shall provide a report to the Commissioner of
23 Administrative Services reflecting findings on the following:

24 (1) Potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals
25 may face to enrollment in and access to benefits and services in state
26 programs;

27 (2) Potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals
28 may face in taking advantage of agency procurement and contracting
29 opportunities, including, but not limited to, the set-aside program for
30 small contractors set forth in section 4a-60g of the general statutes;

31 (3) Whether new policies, regulations or guidance documents may be
32 necessary to advance equity in state agency actions and programs; and

33 (4) The operational status and level of institutional resources
34 available to offices or divisions within the agency that are responsible
35 for advancing civil rights or whose mandates specifically include
36 serving underrepresented or disadvantaged communities.

37 (b) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall, in
38 consultation with the applicable department heads, study strategies,
39 consistent with applicable law, for allocating state resources in a manner
40 that increases investment in underserved communities, as well as
41 individuals from such communities.

42 (c) In complying with the provisions of this section, department
43 heads shall consult with members of communities that have been
44 historically underrepresented in the state government and underserved

45 by, or subject to discrimination in, state policies and programs. Each
 46 department head shall evaluate opportunities, consistent with
 47 applicable law, to increase coordination, communication and
 48 engagement with community-based organizations and civil rights
 49 organizations.

50 (d) Not later than February 1, 2022, the Commissioner of
 51 Administrative Services shall submit a report to the General Assembly,
 52 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 53 (1) describing the best practices identified by the study conducted under
 54 section 1 of this act and, if applicable, recommending legislation or other
 55 approaches to expand use of those methods across the state
 56 government, and (2) containing a summary of the findings of the
 57 reviews conducted by department heads of policies and programs as
 58 reported to the commissioner under this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable*

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 \$
Admin. Serv., Dept.	GF - Cost	500,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) to study methods for assessing if state agency policies and practices create or aggravate barriers to full and equivalent participation by all eligible parties. It specifies that the study must include best methods to assist state agencies in assessing equity.

As DAS does not have expertise in this area, the agency will need to hire consultants at an estimated one-time cost of cost \$500,000 to handle the bill's requirements.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1073

AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/31/2021)