

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6431

AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUSTICE-IMPACTED PERSONS.

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 22 \$</b>	<b>FY 23 \$</b>
Human Rights & Opportunities, Com.	GF - Cost	127,254	131,072
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	52,556	54,133

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill bans discrimination in the practice of housing rentals based on an individual's criminal record, prohibiting landlords, property owners, and housing authorities from refusing to rent to a person because of their criminal record, with certain exceptions. It authorizes aggrieved individuals to file a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO).

The new prohibition would require the addition of one Human Rights Attorney I (at an annualized cost of \$75,051 in FY 22 and \$77,303 in FY 23) and a Human Rights and Opportunities Trainee (at an annualized cost of \$52,203 in FY 22 and \$53,769 in FY 23). In total, the bill results in costs of \$127,254 in FY 22 and \$131,072 in FY 23 to

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<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

CHRO and associated costs of \$52,556 in FY 22 and \$54,133 in FY 23 associated with fringe benefits.

The bill is anticipated to double the number of complaints filed with CHRO. Currently, one investigator or trainee processes approximately 50 complaints annually.

The Human Rights Attorney would perform both investigations and perform the additional casework required in front of the Office of Public Hearings and in court. The Human Rights and Opportunities Trainee receives training in the investigation of discriminatory practices complaints and would perform enforcement and investigative work of gradually increasing responsibilities.

Within CHRO, there are currently three attorneys that handle housing litigation, and within the housing unit, there are currently three investigators and one administrative staff person that handles complaint intake.

### ***The Out Years***

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