



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Raised Bill No. 1073**

LCO No. 5579



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

**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*