



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5419**

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO INITIATE LEGAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 3-129g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

3 (a) The Attorney General may investigate, intervene in or bring a civil  
4 or administrative action in the name of the state, seeking injunctive or  
5 declaratory relief, damages, and any other relief that may be available  
6 under law, whenever any person is or has engaged in a practice or  
7 pattern of conduct that:

8 (1) Subjects, or causes to be subjected, other persons to the  
9 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the  
10 constitutions or laws of this state or the United States; or

11 (2) Interferes, or attempts to interfere, by threats, intimidation or  
12 coercion, with the exercise or enjoyment by other persons of any rights,  
13 privileges or immunities secured by the constitutions or laws of this  
14 state or the United States.

15 (b) In conducting any investigation under this section, the Attorney  
16 General may issue subpoenas and interrogatories, and otherwise gather

17 information, in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided  
18 in section 35-42. No information obtained pursuant to the provisions of  
19 this subsection may be used in a criminal proceeding.

20 (c) If the Attorney General prevails in a civil action brought pursuant  
21 to this section, the court shall order the distribution of any award of  
22 damages to the injured person. In a matter involving the interference or  
23 attempted interference with any right protected by the constitutions of  
24 this state or the United States, the court may also award civil penalties  
25 against each defendant in an amount not exceeding two thousand five  
26 hundred dollars for each violation, provided such violation has been  
27 established by clear and convincing evidence. Any civil penalty that is  
28 received pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the General  
29 Fund.

30 (d) In lieu of bringing a civil action under this section, the Attorney  
31 General may accept an assurance of the discontinuance of any allegedly  
32 unlawful or unconstitutional practice from any person engaged in such  
33 practice. Thereafter, any evidence of a violation of such assurance shall  
34 constitute prima facie proof of violation of the applicable law or right in  
35 any action commenced by the Attorney General.

36 (e) Nothing in this section shall limit the right of a person adversely  
37 affected by a violation of chapter 814c to file a complaint with the  
38 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

39 (f) Nothing in this section shall limit the jurisdiction of the  
40 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities under chapter 814c.

41 (g) The Attorney General shall not bring an action under the  
42 provisions of this section during the pendency of a matter involving the  
43 same parties and the same alleged facts and circumstances before the  
44 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

45 (h) Nothing in this section shall permit the Attorney General to bring  
46 an action that would otherwise be barred under the applicable statute  
47 of limitations or repose.

48 (i) The Attorney General shall post on the Attorney General's Internet  
49 web site information on how to properly file a complaint with the  
50 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. The Attorney  
51 General may, as appropriate, refer cases to the Commission on Human  
52 Rights and Opportunities.

53 (j) Nothing in this section shall permit the Attorney General to assert  
54 any claim against a state agency or a state officer or state employee in  
55 such officer's or employee's official capacity, regarding actions or  
56 omissions of such state agency, state officer or state employee. If the  
57 Attorney General determines that a state officer or state employee is not  
58 entitled to indemnification under section 5-141d, the Attorney General  
59 may, as relates to such officer or employee, take any action authorized  
60 under this section.

61 (k) With regard to any action brought pursuant to this section against  
62 a person for a pattern or practice of conduct in violation of section 46a-  
63 64, 46a-64c, 46a-81d or 46a-81e, or, as a result of an investigation  
64 conducted pursuant to this section, of a potential violation of section  
65 46a-64, 46a-64c, 46a-81d or 46a-81e, the Attorney General may petition  
66 the superior court for the judicial district in which the violation or  
67 alleged violation occurred for any relief available under section 46a-89.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	3-129g

**JUD** Joint Favorable Subst.