

# HOUSE BILL 788

D5  
HB 1163/23 – JUD

4lr0769

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By: **Delegates Alston, Acevero, Davis, Fennell, Kaufman, J. Long, and Roberson**  
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Relations – Protections Against Discrimination – Criminal Records**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting discrimination based on an individual's criminal record in  
4 public accommodations, commercial leasing, housing, and employment and by  
5 certain licensed or regulated persons; establishing certain exceptions to certain  
6 prohibitions established under this Act; establishing that certain crimes are not  
7 included in the definition of "criminal record" for the purposes of certain provisions  
8 prohibiting discrimination; and generally relating to discrimination based on an  
9 individual's criminal record.

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – State Government  
12 Section 20–101(d) through (i)  
13 to be Section 20–101(e) through (j), respectively  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – State Government  
18 Section 20–101(a), 20–301, and 20–601(a)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

21 BY adding to

22 Article – State Government  
23 Section 20–101(d) and (k)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

27 Article – State Government

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Section 20–302, 20–304, 20–401, 20–402, 20–501, 20–601(h), 20–602, 20–603,  
20–604, 20–605(a)(1), 20–606(a) through (e), 20–610(b)(1) and (2) and (c),  
20–702(a), 20–703, 20–705, 20–707(b) and (c), and 20–1103(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Personnel and Pensions

Section 2–302

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That Section(s) 20–101(d) through (i) of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code  
of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 20–101(e) through (j), respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
as follows:

### Article – State Government

20–101.

(a) In Subtitles 1 through 11 of this title the following words have the meanings  
indicated.

**(D) (1) “CRIMINAL RECORD” MEANS:**

**(I) AN ARREST;**

**(II) A PLEA OR VERDICT OF GUILTY;**

**(III) A PLEA OF NOLO CONTENDERE;**

**(IV) THE MARKING OF A CHARGE “STET” ON THE DOCKET;**

**(V) A DISPOSITION OF PROBATION BEFORE JUDGMENT; OR**

**(VI) A DISPOSITION OF NOT CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE.**

**(2) “CRIMINAL RECORD” DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

**(I) AN ARREST OR DISPOSITION LISTED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF  
THIS SUBSECTION IF THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED AGAINST A MINOR OR  
VULNERABLE ADULT; OR**

**(II) THE REGISTRATION STATUS OF AN INDIVIDUAL ON THE  
MARYLAND SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY.**

**(K) “VULNERABLE ADULT” MEANS AN ADULT WHO LACKS THE PHYSICAL OR  
MENTAL CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADULT’S DAILY NEEDS.**

20–301.

In this subtitle, “place of public accommodation” means:

(1) an inn, hotel, motel, or other establishment that provides lodging to transient guests;

(2) a restaurant, cafeteria, lunchroom, lunch counter, soda fountain, or other facility principally engaged in selling food or alcoholic beverages for consumption on or off the premises, including a facility located on the premises of a retail establishment or gasoline station;

(3) a motion picture house, theater, concert hall, sports arena, stadium, or other place of exhibition or entertainment;

(4) a retail establishment that:

(i) is operated by a public or private entity; and

(ii) offers goods, services, entertainment, recreation, or transportation; or

(5) an establishment:

(i) 1. that is physically located within the premises of any other establishment covered by this subtitle; or

2. within the premises of which any other establishment covered by this subtitle is physically located; and

(ii) that holds itself out as serving patrons of the covered establishment.

20–302.

This subtitle does not prohibit the proprietor or employees of any establishment from denying service to any person for failure to conform to the usual and regular requirements, standards, and regulations of the establishment, provided that the denial is not based on

discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability.

20–304.

An owner or operator of a place of public accommodation or an agent or employee of the owner or operator may not refuse, withhold from, or deny to any person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of the place of public accommodation because of the person's race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability.

20–401.

This subtitle does not prohibit any person that is licensed or regulated by the Maryland Department of Labor from refusing, withholding from, or denying accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, sales, or services to any person for failure to conform to the usual and regular requirements, standards, and regulations of the licensed or regulated person, provided that the denial is not based on discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, color, creed, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability.

20–402.

A person that is licensed or regulated by a unit in the Maryland Department of Labor listed in § 2–108 of the Business Regulation Article may not refuse, withhold from, or deny any person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, sales, or services of the licensed or regulated person or discriminate against any person because of the person's race, sex, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability.

20–501.

An owner or operator of commercial property, an agent or employee of the owner or operator of commercial property, or a person that is licensed or regulated by the State may not discriminate against an individual in the terms, conditions, or privileges of the leasing of property for commercial use, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with the leasing of property for commercial use, because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or national origin.

20–601.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(h) "Harassment" includes:

(1) unwelcome and offensive conduct, which need not be severe or pervasive, when:

(i) the conduct is based on race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability; and

(ii) 1. submission to the conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment of an individual;

2. submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or

3. based on the totality of the circumstances, the conduct unreasonably creates a working environment that a reasonable person would perceive to be abusive or hostile; and

(2) sexual harassment.

20–602.

It is the policy of the State, in the exercise of its police power for the protection of the public safety, public health, and general welfare, for the maintenance of business and good government, and for the promotion of the State's trade, commerce, and manufacturers:

(1) to assure all persons equal opportunity in receiving employment and in all labor management–union relations, regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment; and

(2) to that end, to prohibit discrimination in employment by any person.

20–603.

This subtitle does not require:

(1) an employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint labor–management committee subject to this subtitle to grant preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of the race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability of the individual or group because an imbalance may exist with respect to the total number or percentage of individuals of any race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or sexual orientation or individuals with disabilities employed by the employer, referred or classified for employment by the employment agency or labor organization, admitted to membership or classified by the labor organization, or admitted to, or employed

in, any apprenticeship or other training program, compared to the total number or percentage of individuals of that race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, gender identity, or sexual orientation or individuals with disabilities in the State or any community, section, or other area, or in the available work force in the State or any community, section, or other area; or

(2) an employer to reasonably accommodate an employee's religion or disability, or an applicant for employment's disability, if the accommodation would cause undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business.

20-604.

**(A) This subtitle does not apply to:**

(1) an employer with respect to the employment of aliens outside of the State; or

(2) a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity **OR WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD** to perform work connected with the activities of the religious entity.

**(B) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT:**

**(1) PROHIBIT AN EMPLOYER FROM MAKING AN INQUIRY OR TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION REGARDING A CRIMINAL RECORD THAT UNDER APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW THE EMPLOYER IS:**

**(I) REQUIRED OR EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED TO TAKE; OR**

**(II) IN THE CASE OF AN INQUIRY OR OTHER ACTION THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY RELATED TO THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF A JOB APPLIED FOR, AUTHORIZED TO TAKE; OR**

**(2) APPLY TO AN EMPLOYER THAT PROVIDES PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR DIRECT CARE TO MINORS OR TO VULNERABLE ADULTS.**

**(C) THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PREEMPT A LOCAL JURISDICTION FROM ENACTING OR ENFORCING A LAW THAT IS MORE RESTRICTIVE WITH RESPECT TO CRIMINAL RECORD SCREENING PRACTICES OF EMPLOYERS IN THE LOCAL JURISDICTION.**

20-605.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, this subtitle does not prohibit:

(1) an employer from hiring and employing employees, an employment agency from classifying or referring for employment any individual, a labor organization from classifying its membership or classifying or referring for employment any individual, or an employer, labor organization, or joint labor-management committee controlling apprenticeship or other training or retraining programs from admitting or employing any individual in a program, on the basis of the individual's sex, age, religion, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability, if sex, age, religion, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of that business or enterprise;

20-606.

(a) An employer may not:

(1) fail or refuse to hire, discharge, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to the individual's compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of:

(i) the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment; or

(ii) the individual's refusal to submit to a genetic test or make available the results of a genetic test;

(2) limit, segregate, or classify its employees or applicants for employment in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the individual's status as an employee because of:

(i) the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment; or

(ii) the individual's refusal to submit to a genetic test or make available the results of a genetic test;

(3) request or require genetic tests or genetic information as a condition of hiring or determining benefits;

(4) fail or refuse to make a reasonable accommodation for the known disability of an otherwise qualified employee or an applicant for employment; or

(5) engage in harassment of an employee.

(b) An employment agency may not:

(1) fail or refuse to refer for employment or otherwise discriminate against any individual because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment; or

(2) classify or refer for employment any individual on the basis of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment.

(c) A labor organization may not:

(1) exclude or expel from its membership, or otherwise discriminate against, any individual because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment;

(2) limit, segregate, or classify its membership, or classify or fail or refuse to refer for employment any individual, in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive the individual of employment opportunities, limit the individual's employment opportunities, or otherwise adversely affect the individual's status as an employee or as an applicant for employment because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment; or

(3) cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate against an individual in violation of this section.

(d) An employer, labor organization, or joint labor-management committee controlling apprenticeship or other training or retraining programs, including on-the-job training programs, may not discriminate against any individual in admission to, or employment in, any program established to provide apprenticeship or other training or retraining because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment.

(e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an employer, labor organization, or employment agency may not print or cause to be printed or published any notice or advertisement relating to employment by the employer, membership in or any classification or referral for employment by the labor organization, or any classification or referral for employment by the employment agency that indicates any preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability.

(2) A notice or advertisement may indicate a preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, or disability if religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification for employment.

20–610.

(b) An employer may not:

(1) fail or refuse to offer an internship, terminate an internship, or otherwise discriminate against an individual with respect to the terms, conditions, or privileges of an internship because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the internship;

(2) limit, segregate, or classify its interns or applicants for internships in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of internship opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the individual's status as an intern because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the internship;

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an employer may not print or cause to be printed or published any notice or advertisement relating to an internship with the employer that indicates any preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability.

(2) A notice or an advertisement may indicate a preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, or disability if religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification for the internship.

20–702.

(a) It is the policy of the State:

(1) to provide for fair housing throughout the State to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income; and

(2) to that end, to prohibit discriminatory practices with respect to residential housing by any person, in order to protect and ensure the peace, health, safety, prosperity, and general welfare of all.

20–703.

This subtitle does not:

(1) invalidate or limit any local law that requires dwellings to be designed and constructed in a manner that affords an individual with a disability greater access than is required by § 20–706(b) of this subtitle;

(2) limit the applicability of any reasonable local, State, or federal restrictions regarding the maximum number of occupants allowed to occupy a dwelling;

(3) prohibit the State or a local government from enacting standards that govern the location of group homes, as defined in § 4–601 of the Housing and Community Development Article;

(4) affect the powers of any local government to enact an ordinance on any subject covered by this subtitle, provided that the ordinance does not authorize any act that would be a discriminatory housing practice under this subtitle;

(5) require that a dwelling be made available to an individual whose tenancy would:

(i) constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals; or

(ii) result in substantial physical damage to the property of others;

(6) prohibit conduct against a person because the person has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of the illegal manufacture or distribution of:

(i) a controlled dangerous substance, as defined in § 5–101 of the Criminal Law Article; or

(ii) a controlled substance, as defined in 21 U.S.C. § 802;

(7) unless membership in the religion is restricted on the basis of race, color, or national origin, prohibit a religious organization, association, or society or any nonprofit institution or organization operated, supervised, or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious organization, association, or society from giving preference or limiting the

1 sale, rental, or occupancy of dwellings that it owns or operates for other than a commercial  
2 purpose to persons of the same religion; [or]

3 (8) prohibit a private club that is not open to the public and that, as an  
4 incident to its primary purpose or purposes, provides lodgings that it owns or operates for  
5 other than a commercial purpose, from limiting the rental or occupancy of the dwellings to  
6 its members or from giving preference to its members; **OR**

7 (9) (I) **PROHIBIT A HOUSING PROVIDER FROM MAKING AN INQUIRY**  
8 **OR TAKING OTHER ACTION THAT THE HOUSING PROVIDER IS REQUIRED TO TAKE OR**  
9 **EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED TO TAKE BY ANOTHER APPLICABLE FEDERAL OR STATE**  
10 **LAW REGARDING A CRIMINAL RECORD; OR**

11 (II) **APPLY TO A HOUSING PROVIDER THAT PROVIDES**  
12 **PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR DIRECT CARE TO MINORS OR VULNERABLE ADULTS.**

13 20–705.

14 Except as provided in §§ 20–703 and 20–704 of this subtitle, a person may not:

15 (1) refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, refuse to  
16 negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any  
17 person because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual  
18 orientation, gender identity, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income;

19 (2) discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges  
20 of the sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection  
21 with the sale or rental of a dwelling, because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital  
22 status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, **CRIMINAL**  
23 **RECORD**, or source of income;

24 (3) make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published, any  
25 notice, statement, or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that  
26 indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex,  
27 disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national  
28 origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income, or an intention to make any preference,  
29 limitation, or discrimination;

30 (4) represent to any person, because of race, color, religion, sex, disability,  
31 marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin,  
32 **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income, that any dwelling is not available for inspection,  
33 sale, or rental when the dwelling is available; or

34 (5) for profit, induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent any  
35 dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective entry into the neighborhood  
36 of a person of a particular race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status,

sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or source of income **OR WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD.**

20–707.

(b) (1) A person whose business includes engaging in residential real estate–related transactions may not discriminate against any person in making available a transaction, or in the terms or conditions of a transaction, because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not prohibit a person engaged in the business of furnishing appraisals of real property from taking into consideration factors other than race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income.

(c) A person may not, because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income:

(1) deny a person access to, or membership or participation in, a multiple–listing service, real estate brokers’ organization, or other service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings; or

(2) discriminate against a person in the terms or conditions of membership or participation.

20–1103.

(b) Whether or not acting under color of law, a person may not, by force or threat of force, willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, or attempt to injure, intimidate, or interfere with:

(1) any person because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income and because the person is or has been:

(i) selling, purchasing, renting, financing, occupying, or contracting or negotiating for the sale, purchase, rental, financing, or occupation of any dwelling; or

(ii) applying for or participating in any service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings;

(2) any person because the person is or has been, or in order to intimidate the person or any other person or any class of persons from:

(i) participating, without discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income, in any of the activities, services, organizations, or facilities described in item (1) of this subsection; or

(ii) affording another person or class of persons the opportunity or protection to participate in any of the activities, services, organizations, or facilities described in item (1) of this subsection; or

(3) any person because the person is or has been, or in order to discourage the person or any other person from:

(i) lawfully aiding or encouraging other persons to participate, without discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or source of income, in any of the activities, services, organizations, or facilities described in item (1) of this subsection; or

(ii) participating lawfully in speech or peaceful assembly opposing any denial of the opportunity to participate in any of the activities, services, organizations, or facilities described in item (1) of this subsection.

## Article – State Personnel and Pensions

2–302.

(a) The State recognizes and honors the value and dignity of every person and understands the importance of providing employees and applicants for employment with a fair opportunity to pursue their careers in an environment free of discrimination or harassment prohibited by law.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection or by other law, all personnel actions concerning a State employee or applicant for employment in State government shall be made without regard to:

(i) age;

(ii) ancestry;

(iii) color;

(iv) creed;

(v) gender identity;

(vi) marital status;

(vii) mental or physical disability;

(viii) national origin;

(ix) race;

(x) religious affiliation, belief, or opinion;

**(XI) CRIMINAL RECORD, AS DEFINED IN § 20–101 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE;**

**[(xi)] (XII)** sex; or

**[(xii)] (XIII)** sexual orientation.

(2) A personnel action may be taken with regard to age, sex, **CRIMINAL RECORD**, or disability to the extent that age, sex, **A QUALIFICATION RELATING TO A CRIMINAL RECORD**, or A physical or mental qualification is required by law or is a bona fide occupational qualification.

(c) (1) Each State employee is expected to assume personal responsibility and leadership in ensuring fair employment practices and equal employment opportunity in Maryland State government.

(2) Employment discrimination and harassment by State managers, supervisors, or other employees is prohibited.

(3) A State employee who violates this subtitle is subject to disciplinary action by the employee's appointing authority, including the termination of State employment.

(d) The Equal Employment Opportunity Program in Title 5, Subtitle 2 of this article governs all employees of any unit in the Executive Branch of State government, including a unit with an independent personnel system.

(e) (1) At least annually, the Secretary shall report on the Equal Employment Opportunity Program established in § 5–202 of this article to the Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight.

(2) The head of a personnel system in the Legislative and Judicial branches may report periodically on equal employment opportunity programs and policies in effect in that personnel system to the Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.