

It is further declared to be the public policy of the county that discrimination in housing and places of public accommodation against any person on account of race, color, religious creed, ancestry or national origin is contrary to the morals, ethics and purposes of a free, democratic society; is injurious to and threatens the peace and good government of this county; is injurious to and threatens the health, safety and welfare of persons within this county; and is illegal and should be abolished.

Sec. 77-2. Created; membership, appointments and term of office of members; Commission Panels.

There is hereby established a Commission on Human Relations. The Commission shall consist of not less than nine (9) members and not more than fifteen (15) members to be appointed and may be removed for cause by the County Executive with the approval of the County Council and who shall be broadly representative of the racial, religious, and ethnic groups of the County. The terms of the members of the Commission shall be for one, two, or three years, as prescribed by the County Executive at the time of appointment, so as to provide for the vacating of the terms of one-third of the members of the Commission annually. Each member of the Commission shall continue to serve after his term until his successor has been appointed and has qualified. The County Executive, with the approval of the County Council, shall appoint a Commission Panel on Public Accommodations, a Commission Panel on Housing, and any further panel as determined by law.

Sec. 77-3. Officers; meetings; quorum; voting.

The County Executive may designate a member of the Commission on Human Relations to be Chairman and, in the absence of any member being designated, the Commission may elect a Chairman notwithstanding their authority to elect such other officers as it may deem necessary. The Commission shall hold meetings at regular intervals but not less frequently than once every month. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority vote of those present at any meeting shall be sufficient for any official action taken by the Commission.

Sec. 77-4. Executive Secretary; additional personnel; budget preparation.

A member of the County Executive's staff or his acting designee shall serve as executive secretary of the Commission on Human Relations and shall assist the Commission Panels as determined by law. Other personnel and facilities may be authorized by the County Executive to assist the Commission in carrying out the provisions of this Chapter. The Commission may, with the approval of the County Executive engage the services of volunteer workers and consultants without salary, who may be reimbursed their out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the course of performing such services. Services of an individual as a volunteer worker or consultant pursuant to this Chapter shall not be considered as service of employment bringing such individual within any Merit System of the County or State of Maryland. In proposing a budget for the operation of the Commission and in selecting other personnel and facilities the County Executive shall take into consideration the recommendations of the Commission.

Sec. 77-5. Compensation and expenses of members.

The members of the Commission on Human Relations shall serve without compensation, but they may be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with appropriations made by the County Council.