

~~WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that full protection of the law should be provided to the citizens of the State and that allowing private causes of action for violations of certain county discrimination laws, under certain circumstances, is appropriate; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 49B – Human Relations Commission**

40.

This subtitle applies in Montgomery County, PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, AND HOWARD COUNTY.

41.

In this subtitle, “prevailing party” has the meaning stated in 42 U.S.C. § 1988.

42.

(a) In accordance with this subtitle, a person who is subjected to an act of discrimination prohibited by the [Montgomery County Code] COUNTY CODE may bring and maintain a civil action against the person who committed the alleged discriminatory act for damages, injunctive relief, or other civil relief.

(b) (1) An action under subsection (a) of this section shall be commenced in the [Circuit Court for Montgomery County] CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE not later than 2 years after the occurrence of the alleged discriminatory act.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, an action under subsection (a) of this section alleging employment or public accommodation discrimination may not be commenced sooner than 45 days after the aggrieved person files a complaint with the county agency responsible for handling violations of the county discrimination laws.

(3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, an action under subsection (a) of this section alleging real estate discrimination may be commenced at any time.

(c) In a civil action under this subtitle, the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party reasonable attorney’s fees, expert witness fees, and costs.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1993.

Approved April 26, 1993.