

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2007.

CHAPTER 177

(House Bill 314)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Human Relations Commission – Hearings and Civil Actions – Relief

FOR the purpose of altering various provisions of the Maryland Human Relations Commission law; ~~providing that an administrative law judge oversees certain proceedings before the Commission; providing~~ requiring certain cases to be heard by an administrative law judge, rather than a hearing examiner; requiring that a complaint of discrimination and certain documents ~~shall~~ be certified to the general counsel of the Commission rather than the Commission chairman; altering the circumstances under which a certification is required to be made; requiring that the Executive Director of the Commission, rather than the Commission chairman, cause a certain notice to be issued and served; ~~providing a process for electing to file a civil action rather than an administrative hearing concerning certain acts of discrimination;~~ authorizing a complainant to bring a civil action alleging a discriminatory act or elect to have a civil action brought by the Commission; providing a process for the filing of a civil action by the Commission or a complainant; expanding the relief available for certain acts of discrimination to include an award of certain compensatory damages, punitive damages, and ~~attorney~~ attorney's fees and expert witness fees under certain circumstances; ~~establishing that certain limitations on compensatory and punitive damages shall increase by a certain amount each year;~~ authorizing a complainant to demand a trial by jury under certain circumstances; providing a process for a certain person or the Commission to intervene in ~~a civil action brought by the Commission~~ certain civil actions; authorizing the court to award certain relief to an intervening ~~person~~ party; making stylistic and conforming changes; repealing certain obsolete provisions;