

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 523 Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame
SPONSOR(S): A. Williams and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1354

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Governmental Affairs Policy Committee		Haug	Williamson
2)	Government Operations Appropriations Committee			
3)	Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council			
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Legislature has established Halls of Fame in Florida. Some examples of Halls of Fame previously created include the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame, Florida Artists Hall of Fame, Florida Educator Hall of Fame, and Florida Sports Hall of Fame.

The bill creates the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame) will be located in the Capitol Building in a public area designated by the Department of Management Services (DMS). DMS must consult with the Florida Commission on Human Relations (Commission) regarding the design and theme of the public area.

The Commission annually must accept nominations for persons to be recommended as members of the Hall of Fame and must recommend 10 persons from which the Governor will select up to three members. Each person selected will have a designation placed in the Hall of Fame. The bill provides criteria for the Commission to follow when recommending members to the Hall of Fame.

According to DMS, it will incur indeterminate expenses related to the design, alteration and ongoing maintenance of the identified space in the Capitol Building for the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2010.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992¹

Current law provides the "Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992" (Act). The general purposes of the Act are to ... secure for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status and thereby to protect their interest in personal dignity, to make available to the state their full productive capacities, to secure the state against domestic strife and unrest, to preserve the public safety, health, and general welfare, and to promote the interests, rights, and privileges of individuals within the state.²

The policy of Florida embodied in this Act is patterned after the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.³

Florida Commission on Human Relations

The Florida Commission on Human Relations (Commission) is a 12 member commission⁴ assigned to the Department of Management Services.⁵ Members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate⁶ and must broadly represent various racial, religious, ethnic, social, economic, political and professional groups within the state.⁷

The Commission is required to

... promote and encourage fair treatment and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status and mutual understanding and respect among all members of all economic, social, racial, religious, and ethnic groups.⁸

¹ See Sections 760.01 – 760.11 and 590.092, F.S.

² Section 760.01(2), F.S.

³ Pub. L. 88-353, 78 Stat. 241 (1964).

⁴ Section 760.03(1), F.S.

⁵ Section 760.04, F.S.

⁶ Section 760.03(1), F.S.

⁷ Section 760.03(2), F.S.

⁸ Section 760.05, F.S.

The Commission is responsible for investigating complaints of discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and memberships in certain private clubs, as well as state employee whistle-blower retaliation.⁹ It has investigated and closed more than 74,000 cases and has negotiated close to \$13 million in settlement amounts for more than 1,500 people through its mediation services.¹⁰

Halls of Fame in Florida

The Legislature has established Halls of Fame in Florida. Examples of Halls of Fame previously created include the Florida Women's Hall of Fame,¹¹ Florida Artists Hall of Fame,¹² Florida Educator Hall of Fame,¹³ and Florida Sports Hall of Fame.¹⁴

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame) will be located in the Capitol Building in a public area designated by the Department of Management Services (DMS). DMS must consult with the Commission regarding the design and theme of the public area.

The Commission annually must accept nominations for persons to be recommended as members of the Hall of Fame and must recommend 10 persons from which the Governor will select up to three members. Each person selected will have a designation placed in the Hall of Fame that provides information regarding the member's particular discipline or contribution, including vital information relating to that member.

The Commission must recommend persons who:

- Are 18 years of age or older;
- Were born in Florida or adopted Florida as their home state and base of operation; and
- Have made a significant contribution and provided exemplary leadership toward Florida's progress and achievements in civil rights.

The Commission may set specific time periods for acceptance of nominations and selection of members to coincide with appropriate activities of the Hall of Fame.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates s. 760.065, F.S., providing for the establishment of the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Section 2: Providing an effective date of July 1, 2010.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

⁹ Florida Commission on Human Relations, Media Information,

<http://fchr.state.fl.us/fchr/content/download/2624/7431/file/FCHR%20Media%20Information.doc> (last visited March 23, 2010).

¹⁰ Florida Commission on Human Relations, *History of the Commission*, http://fchr.state.fl.us/about_us/history (last visited March 23, 2010).

¹¹ Section 265.001, F.S.

¹² Section 265.2865, F.S.

¹³ Chapter 98-281, s. 13, Laws of Florida; s. 231.63, F.S. (1998 Supp.).

¹⁴ Section 15.051, F.S.

2. Expenditures:

DMS will incur indeterminate expenses related to the design, alteration and ongoing maintenance of the identified space in the Capitol Building for the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.¹⁵

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The Department of Management Services provided the following fiscal comment:

SB 1354 requires that DMS set aside "an appropriate public area of the Capitol Building for the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame and to consult with the commission regarding the design and theme of the area." The legislation does not identify a funding source for space alterations, design or related display features that may be necessary. Additionally, the legislation does not define "appropriate public area," which may lead to challenges in selecting the final location and amount of space allocated. It is also unclear if an appropriate area would require square footage that is currently subject to rent payments, based on current statute and bond resolution requirements.¹⁶

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not appear to: require cities or counties to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a shared state tax or premium sales tax received by cities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

The bill appears to contain a drafting error. On line 36 the word "to" should be added between the words "pursuant" and "this."

¹⁵ Department of Management Services HB 523 Analysis, March 22, 2010 at 2 (on file with the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee).

¹⁶ *Id.*

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not applicable.