

Executive

In House Finance and Appropriations

1 CIV - 3 Fair Housing Law Changes

R.C. 4112.01, 4112.04, 4112.051

(1) Defines an "aggrieved person" for the purposes of who may participate in certain fair housing civil rights proceedings to include persons who have been or may be injured by the discrimination and certain other individuals and organizations who can investigate and enforce Fair Housing Laws.

(2) Authorizes the complainant or any aggrieved person involved in an administrative hearing to enforce certain fair housing provisions in the Ohio Civil Rights Law to intervene as a matter of right in a related civil action with respect to the issues to be determined in that civil action.

(3) Broadens the types of persons who may request the Civil Rights Commission to issue subpoenas from respondents to any party to the administrative proceeding (thereby including complainants and aggrieved persons who have become parties), and delays the point at which the respondents (expanded to all parties under the bill) may request the Civil Rights Commission to issue a subpoena to after the person becomes a party to an administrative hearing.

(4) No provision.

R.C. 4112.01, 4112.04, 4112.051, 4112.052

(1) Same as the Executive.

(2) Same as the Executive.

(3) Same as the Executive.

(4) Authorizes additional remedies a court may award in a civil action the Attorney General brings to enforce the Ohio Fair Housing Law, including actual and punitive damages, preventative relief, other relief the court considers appropriate, and penalties in an amount not exceeding \$50,000 for a first violation and \$100,000 for subsequent violations. Authorizes the Attorney General to commence a

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**Fiscal effect:** These provisions bring Ohio's fair housing laws into compliance with federal laws, reducing the risk posed for the funding that the Commission receives from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Commission receives over \$2 million per year from HUD.

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civil action when the Ohio Civil Rights Commission refers a breach of a conciliation agreement. Permits any person to intervene in a civil action the Attorney General brings if the person is an aggrieved person or a party to a breached conciliation agreement and establishes relief a court may grant.

**Fiscal effect:** Same as the Executive.

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