

Senate File 579 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 579
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1184)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to local civil rights commissions and local civil
2 rights agencies.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 216.19, Code 2025, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. Any complaint filed with a local agency
4 or local commission where a party is a political subdivision
5 shall be referred to the Iowa office of civil rights for
6 processing.

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 10. a. A local agency or local commission
8 complaint, upon request by any party, shall be transferred to
9 the Iowa office of civil rights for processing if the complaint
10 alleges a violation of this chapter and has not been resolved
11 within twelve months of the filing date of the complaint.

12 b. The local agency or local commission shall within three
13 hundred days of the filing date of the complaint do all of the
14 following:

15 (1) Send notice to all parties of a party's right to direct
16 transfer of the complaint to the Iowa office of civil rights from
17 the local agency or local commission after twelve months if the
18 complaint alleges a violation of this chapter. The notice shall
19 be sent to all parties by verified mail, or electronic notice if
20 the party is enrolled in electronic notification.

21 (2) Cross file a complaint with the Iowa office of civil
22 rights if the local agency or local commission complaint arises
23 from an alleged violation of a state law, rule, or regulation
24 under the jurisdiction of the Iowa office of civil rights.
25 This subparagraph shall not be construed to prohibit a local
26 agency or local commission from cross filing a complaint with
27 any other federal or state agency, commission, or entity, if the
28 local agency or local commission complaint arises from an alleged
29 violation of a state or federal law, rule, or regulation of a
30 state or federal agency, commission, or entity.

31 NEW SUBSECTION. 11. The term of a commissioner appointed to
32 a local agency or local commission shall be for two years.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

1 This bill relates to local civil rights commissions or local
2 civil rights agencies.

3 The bill provides that any complaint that is filed with a
4 local commission or local agency where a party is a political
5 subdivision shall be referred to the Iowa office of civil rights
6 for processing. The bill provides that a local agency or
7 local commission complaint, upon request by any party, shall be
8 transferred to the Iowa office of civil rights for processing
9 if the complaint alleges a violation of the Iowa civil rights
10 Act of 1965 and has not been resolved within 12 months of the
11 filing date of the complaint. The bill requires the local agency
12 or local commission to within 300 days of the filing date of
13 the complaint: (1) send notice to all parties of the party's
14 right to direct transfer to the Iowa office of civil rights
15 after 12 months by verified mail, or electronic notice, and (2)
16 cross file a complaint with the Iowa office of civil rights if
17 the local agency or local commission complaint arises from an
18 alleged violation of a state law, rule, or regulation under the
19 jurisdiction of the Iowa office of civil rights. The bill does
20 not prohibit a local agency or local commission from cross filing
21 a complaint with any other federal or state agency, commission,
22 or entity, if the local agency or local commission complaint
23 arises from an alleged violation of a state or federal law,
24 rule, or regulation of a state or federal agency, commission, or
25 entity.

26 The bill provides that the term of a commissioner of a local
27 agency or local commission is two years.