

Human Relations Commission: Proposed Recommendations

<u>POC/Suggestions from entity, JLOSC members, and public</u>	<u>Proposed Recommendations</u>
The Committee may select one of these two options for the Commission.	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 1:</p> <p>Option 1: The Commission shall continue, subject to any further recommendations adopted by JLOSC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Option 2: The Commission shall be terminated and applicable sections of the code amended to remove the Human Relations Commission.</p>

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<p>As proposed by the Commission and the JLOSC, the Commission membership should be reduced. 31 Del. C §statute currently reads: § 3001 Creation; composition; vacancies; compensation. (a) There is created a State Human Relations Commission which shall consist of 28 members. Each county of the State shall be represented by 7 members, and 7 members shall be selected without regard to the county in which they reside. The members shall be appointed by the Governor and shall be broadly representative of various racial and cultural groups of the State. Seven of the original members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 7 for a term of 2 years, 7 for a term of 3 years and 7 for a term of 4 years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be made for terms of 4 years.</p> <p>Discussions at the public hearing included recommendations from the Commission that due to the hearing process, that the membership be 18. The Committee may wish to discuss this further to consider an even smaller number than 18.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 2:</p> <p>The Commission shall provide to JLOSC proposed amendments to its governing statute to reduce the size of the Commission from 28 members to a number JLOSC determines.</p>

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<p>As discussed in the JLOSC Public Hearing, the Commission's meeting quorum is not included in their governing statute.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 3:</p> <p>The Commission shall provide to JLOSC proposed amendments to its governing statute to include quorum language.</p>

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<p>Expand statute language to include a process to remove a board member.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 4:</p> <p>The Commission shall provide to JLOSC proposed amendments to its governing statute to include language standard to boards and commissions. Sample language is as follows:</p> <p>A member may be removed by the member’s appointing authority at any time and for any reason, without notice and hearing, including for gross inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office.</p> <p>A member is deemed in neglect of duty if the member is absent from 3 consecutive Board meetings without good cause or if the member attends less than 50% of Board meetings in a calendar year.</p>

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<p>The JLOSC was concerned that there is not available video space in Sussex County for ease of meetings and public attendance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 5:</p> <p>The Commission shall make every effort to add a video location, which will allow for Sussex County members and public to participate in meetings.</p>

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<p>The Committee discussed with the Commission the limitations of their powers and duties. The Commission has been asked to comment on items such as disparity in education, however, the Commission’s authority is in the areas of Fair Housing and Equal Accommodations. This is not reflected in Title 31 §3004, but in Title 6.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 6:</p> <p>The Commission shall provide to JLOSC proposed amendments to its governing statute to include references to its powers and duties in Chapter 45, Title 6 (Equal Accommodations), and Chapter 46, Title 6 (Fair Housing Act). For example, add to §3004, Title 31, the following: “(4) Fulfill its duties as provided in Chapter 45 of Title 6.”</p>

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<p>The Committee may select one of these two options for the Commission.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 7:</p> <p>Option 1: The Commission shall be held over and report before the JLOSC in January 2017.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Option 2: The Commission shall be released from review [upon the enactment of recommended any/all legislation].</p>

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