
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2615 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY MARCELL, WHITE, SCHMITT, STAATS, KUZMA AND
SCHEUREN, OCTOBER 21, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 21, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), entitled
2 "An act prohibiting certain practices of discrimination
3 because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age or
4 national origin by employers, employment agencies, labor
5 organizations and others as herein defined; creating the
6 Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in the Governor's
7 Office; defining its functions, powers and duties; providing
8 for procedure and enforcement; providing for formulation of
9 an educational program to prevent prejudice; providing for
10 judicial review and enforcement and imposing penalties,"
11 further providing for unlawful discriminatory practices; and
12 providing for unlawful discriminatory practices against
13 certain religions.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. Section 5 introductory paragraph of the act of
17 October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), known as the Pennsylvania
18 Human Relations Act, is amended to read:

19 Section 5. Unlawful Discriminatory Practices.--[It] Subject
20 to section 5.4, it shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice,
21 unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification, or in
22 the case of a fraternal corporation or association, unless based
23 upon membership in such association or corporation, or except

1 where based upon applicable security regulations established by
2 the United States or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

3 * * *

4 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

5 Section 5.4. Unlawful Discriminatory Practices Against
6 Certain Religions.--For purposes of section 5, with regard to
7 the Jewish faith, unlawful discriminatory practices based on
8 religious creed:

9 (a) Shall include:

10 (1) The definition of "antisemitism" adopted on May 26,
11 2016, by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and
12 used by the United States Department of State.

13 (2) Contemporary examples of antisemitism identified by the
14 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on the effective
15 date of this paragraph.

16 (b) Do not include criticism of Israel similar to that
17 leveled against any other country.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.