

SB 298 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Kennemer

House Committee On Business and Labor

Action Date: 05/17/17

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Bynum, Doherty, Evans, Fahey, Hack, Heard, Holvey, Kennemer

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends sunset from 2017 to 2021 on provisions granting Commissioner of Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) discretion to seek civil penalties or appear in court on housing discrimination claims. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Former contract BOLI held with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Whether sunset should be eliminated
- BOLI reports more success settling cases since discretion allowed in 2015

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) has authority to investigate and remedy housing discrimination claims. Prior to June 2015, if BOLI determined there was substantial evidence to support a housing discrimination claim and a settlement could not be reached, it was required to seek civil penalties.. Similarly, BOLI was required to pursue a discrimination-related matter in court if either party elected to seek judicial remedies. The Legislative Assembly, through Senate Bill 380 (2015), granted BOLI discretion for a two-year period to seek civil penalties or appear in court in these circumstances. Senate Bill 298-A extends this authority for an additional four years.