

# Commission on Human Rights

## **KY Human Rights Commission supports statewide Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act**

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The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights at its meeting last week in Frankfort, Ky., unanimously approved a resolution confirming its support of a statewide Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act.

The 2009 and 2014 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, published by the Kentucky Housing Corporation concluded that the lack of an enforceable statewide Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (URLTA) is a great impediment to fair housing. The current Kentucky General Assembly has before it proposed legislation that would pass such a law.

The resolution states: "The URL TA provides balanced rights and responsibilities for tenants and landlords, thereby furthering fair and equal housing opportunity for all persons, and discouraging unlawful discrimination. Currently, the URLTA is a state law that gives local governments the authority to choose whether or not to adopt its provisions. Approximately 18 Kentucky cities and counties have adopted the law."

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Executive Director John J. Johnson said: "A statewide enforceable URLTA is needed to help eradicate discrimination. Forty-three years after the enactment of the Fair Housing Act, about 4 million fair housing violations occur each year according to the National Fair Housing Alliance. Less than one percent of the violations are reported. The U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development reports that in 2010, 10,155 fair housing complaints were filed across the United States. In the same year in Kentucky, 126 fair housing complaints were filed, and over 103 fair housing complaints were mediated before a formal complaint was made."

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act (Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 344), and, through its affiliation with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, enforces federal civil rights laws.

The Kentucky Civil Rights Act makes it illegal to discriminate against people in the areas of employment, financial transactions, housing and public accommodations. Discrimination is

prohibited in the aforementioned areas based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, and disability. In employment, discrimination is further prohibited on the basis of age (40-years and over) and on the basis of tobacco-smoking status. In housing, discrimination is further prohibited based on familial status, which protects people with children in the household under the age of 18-years old, and it protects women who are pregnant. It is also a violation of the law to retaliate against a person for complaining of discrimination to the commission.

For more information, contact the commission at 1.800.292.5566. For information about the commission and civil rights, visit the website at [www.kchr.ky.gov](http://www.kchr.ky.gov)

For news about civil rights and information pertaining to protected classes, visit the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Facebook and Twitter sites. Directly link to the sites from the commission website address listed above.