

Council on  

*Black Minnesotans*

**Constitutionalize Human Rights Enforcement**

1.1 A bill for an act  
 1.2 proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution by adding a section to  
 1.3 article XIII; affirming the enforcement of human rights.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.

1.6 An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article XIII, by adding a section, is  
 1.7 proposed to the people. If the amendment is adopted, the section will read as follows:

1.8 Sec. 13. No human authority shall in any manner control or interfere with the  
 1.9 enforcement of legal protections of human rights enumerated in Article I and Minnesota  
 1.10 Law. The human rights protections shall be forever enforced for the public good.

1.11 Sec. 2. SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.

1.12 The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2016 general  
 1.13 election. The question submitted shall be:

1.14 "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to affirm the enforcement of human  
 1.15 rights enumerated in Article I and Minnesota Law for the public good?

1.16 Yes .....  
 1.17 No ....."

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**Expansion of the Department of Human Rights Duties**

1.1 A bill for an act  
 1.2 relating to human rights; providing for expansion of duties under the Human  
 1.3 Rights Act; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota  
 1.4 Statutes, chapter 363A.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [363A.50] STATEWIDE COMPLIANCE OVERSIGHT.

1.7 (a) In order to increase enforcement and oversight functions of the Department of  
 1.8 Human Rights, the commissioner shall establish an office within the department to deal  
 1.9 with the following areas:

1.10 (1) ensure that all duties specified in section 363A.06 are a priority;

1.11 (2) implement audit procedures for state agencies, local areas of government,  
 1.12 school districts, corporations and institutions for compliance with human rights, equal  
 1.13 opportunity, fair housing, voting rights, and affirmative action laws and regulations;

1.14 (3) conduct affirmative action and human rights impact analysis on all executive  
 1.15 orders issued and proposed legislation; and

1.16 (4) review and approve all state contract procurement services under chapter 16C to  
 1.17 ensure that they meet federal and state equal access and equal opportunity laws.

1.18 (b) The commissioner shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the  
 1.19 legislative committees with jurisdiction over human rights on efforts to implement the  
 1.20 duties in paragraph (a) by January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter. The report shall also  
 1.21 be issued to the governor and the public at large.

1.22 Sec. 2. STUDY COMMITTEE.

2.1 The commissioner of human rights shall establish a committee to study the process  
2.2 of implementing the United Nation's International Covenant to End All Forms of Racial  
2.3 Discrimination (CERD) and address issues relating to women's rights and housing  
2.4 discrimination. The commissioner shall issue a report to the legislature by January 1,  
2.5 2014, and make recommendations on legislation for implementation of CERD.

2.6 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.7 \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2015 and \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year  
2.8 2016 from the general fund to the commissioner of human rights to carry out the duties in  
2.9 section 1. This appropriation is added to the department's base funding.