



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Senate Second
Reading
Date: 4/18/2017

Bill Number

Senate Bill 17-283

Sponsors

Senator Lundberg

Short Title

***Clarify Discrimination & Right
To Disagree***

Research Analyst

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Status

The bill is currently pending before the Senate on second reading. This research note reflects the bill as referred by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on April 12, 2017.

Background

Under current law, actions such as denial of service, terms and conditions, unequal treatment, failure to accommodate, and retaliation are prohibited in places of public accommodation when undertaken against protected classes. For purposes of public accommodation, protected classes are defined on the basis of: race, color, disability, sex, sexual orientation (including transgender status), national origin or ancestry, creed, or marital status. Places of public accommodation include restaurants, hospitals, hotels, retail stores, and public transportation, among others.

The Colorado Civil Rights Division (CCRD) of the Department of Regulatory Agencies investigates complaints and enforces state law when businesses and individuals engage in discrimination in places of public accommodation. The CCRD requires that a charge of discrimination be filed within 60 days of an adverse action occurring. The CCRD has a number of administrative remedies available, although an aggrieved party may choose to pursue a judgment in state court.

Senate Action

Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (April 12, 2017). At the hearing, representatives from Christian Home Educators of Colorado and the Patriot League, as well as three private individuals, testified in support of the bill. Representatives from the American Civil

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Liberties Union, the Anti-Defamation League, the Colorado LGBT Bar Association, the Colorado Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Colorado Sikhs, the Colorado Women's Bar Association, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, Communications Workers of America, the Office of the Governor, the Plaintiff Employee Lawyers Association, and Small Business Majority, as well as four private individuals, testified against the bill. The committee referred the unamended bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole.