STATE OF NEW YORK

5138

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 11, 2019

Introduced by Sens. MAYER, KENNEDY, STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to county, city, village or town commissions on human rights

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 239-o of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 413 of the laws of 1964, is amended to read as follows:

§ 239-o. Creation, appointment and terms. The governing board of any county, city, village or town may by resolution create a commission on human rights. The governing board shall determine the number of members of such commission, the terms of the members, the manner of appointment of the members, the selection of a chairman and the compensation, if any, to be paid to them. In selecting the membership of the commission, the governing board shall take into consideration the various [~~religious, racial, nationality~~] **ages, races, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status, domestic violence victim status** and political groups in the community. The establishment of such a commission at one level of local government shall not preclude establishment of such a commission at other levels of local government.

§ 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 239-q of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 958 of the laws of 1968, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To foster mutual respect and understanding among all [~~racial, religious and nationality~~] **ages, races, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status and domestic violence victim status** groups in the community.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 3. Subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 239-r of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 958 of the laws of 1968, are amended to read as follows:

(a) To receive complaints of alleged discrimination because of **an individual's age,** race, creed, color or national origin**, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, marital status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status or domestic violence victim status**, to seek the active assistance of the division of human rights in the solution of complaints which fall within the jurisdiction of the division and to prepare its own plans in the case of other complaints with a view to reducing and eliminating such alleged discrimination through the process of conference, conciliation and persuasion.

(b) To hold conferences, and other public meetings in the interest of the constructive resolution of [~~racial, religious and nationality~~] **age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status and domestic violence victim status** group tensions and the prejudice and discrimination occasioned thereby.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.