

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 303

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

DISCRIMINATION: Provides relative to discrimination in sale or rental of housing and other prohibited practices

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 51:2602(A), 2603(10) through (12), 2606(A)(1) through (5),
3 2607(A) and (C), and 2608 and to enact R.S. 51:2603(13) and (14), relative to
4 discrimination in the sale or rental of housing; to prohibit discriminatory housing
5 practices based on sexual orientation and gender identity; to provide for definitions;
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 51:2602(A), 2603(10) through (12), 2606(A)(1) through (5), 2607(A)
9 and (C), and 2608 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 51:2603(13) and (14) are
10 hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §2602. Policy

12 A. The legislature finds and declares that persons in this state who seek a
13 place to live should be able to find such housing whenever it is available. Further,
14 in many localities there may be housing shortages. All persons should therefore be
15 able to compete for available housing on an open, fair, and equitable basis, regardless
16 of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, familial
17 status, or national origin.

18 * * *

1 §2603. Definitions

2 As used in this Chapter:

3 * * *

4 (10) "Gender identity" means a person's actual or perceived gender-related
5 identity with or without regard to the person's designated sex at birth.

6 ~~(10)~~ (11) "Person" includes one or more individuals, corporations,
7 partnerships, associations, labor organizations, legal representatives, mutual
8 companies, joint stock companies, trusts, unincorporated organizations, trustees,
9 trustees in bankruptcy, receivers, and fiduciaries.

10 ~~(11)~~ (12) "Respondent" means the person or other entity accused in a
11 complaint of a discriminatory housing practice, or, any other person or entity
12 identified in the course of an investigation and notified that they are a respondent
13 who shall be joined in the complaint.

14 (13) "Sexual orientation" means a person's actual or perceived
15 heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.

16 ~~(12)~~ (14) "To rent" includes to lease, to sublease, to let, and otherwise to
17 grant for a consideration the right to occupy premises owned by the occupant.

18 * * *

19 §2606. Discrimination in sale or rental of housing and other prohibited practices

20 A. As made applicable by R.S. 51:2604, and except as exempted by
21 Subsection B thereof and R.S. 51:2605, it is unlawful:

22 (1) To refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, or to refuse
23 to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a
24 dwelling to any person because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation,
25 gender identity, familial status, or national origin.

26 (2) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges
27 of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in
28 connection therewith, because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender
29 identity, familial status, or national origin.

1 organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings, or to
2 discriminate against him in the terms or conditions of such access, membership, or
3 participation, on account of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender
4 identity, disability, familial status, or national origin.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 303 Original

2022 Regular Session

Freeman

Abstract: Makes various changes to the La. Equal Housing Opportunity Act to prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Present law of the La. Equal Housing Opportunity Act generally provides that all persons should be able to compete for available housing on an open, fair, and equitable basis, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a person's sexual orientation and gender identity to the La. Equal Housing Opportunity Act as factors not to be considered in the competition for available housing.

Proposed law defines the following terms for the purposes of proposed law: "gender identity" and "sexual orientation".

(Amends R.S. 51:2602(A), 2603(10)-(12), 2606(A)(1)-(5), 2607(A) and (C), and 2608; Adds R.S. 51:2603(13) and (14))