

Senate Bill No. 381

CHAPTER 66

An act to amend Sections 50262, 50264, and 50265 of the Government Code, relating to local human relations commissions.

[Approved by Governor July 16, 2001. Filed with
Secretary of State July 16, 2001.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 381, Chesbro. Cities and counties: human relations commissions.

Existing law authorizes cities and counties to create commissions on human relations with the responsibility to, among other things, foster mutual respect and understanding among all racial, religious, and nationality groups in the community, inquire into incidents of tension and conflict among or between these groups, hold conferences and other public meetings in the interest of resolution of these tensions, and enlist the cooperation and participation of these groups and others as specified to foster mutual esteem, justice, and equity.

This bill would change the groups identified in these provisions to include people from groups of various race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or civic interest, and people from other groups subject to prejudice and discrimination.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 50262 of the Government Code is amended to read:

50262. The governing body of any city or county may, by ordinance, create a commission on human relations. The governing body shall determine the number of members of the commission, the terms of the members, the manner of appointment of the members, the selection of a chairperson and the compensation, if any, to be paid to them. In selecting the membership of the commission, the governing body shall take into consideration, among other things, people from groups of various race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or civic interest, and people from other groups subject to prejudice and discrimination. The establishment of a



commission at one level of local government shall not preclude establishment of a commission at other levels of local government.

SEC. 2. Section 50264 of the Government Code is amended to read: 50264. It shall be the responsibility of the commission:

(a) To foster mutual respect and understanding among all people, including people subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or any other factors.

(b) To make any studies in any field of human relationship in the community as in the judgment of the commission will aid in effectuating its general purposes.

(c) To inquire into incidents of tension and conflict among or between people, including people subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or any other factors, and to take action by means of conciliation, conference, and persuasion to alleviate those tensions and conflict.

(d) To conduct and recommend any educational programs as, in the judgment of the commission, will increase good will among inhabitants of the community and open new opportunities into all phases of community life for all inhabitants.

SEC. 3. Section 50265 of the Government Code is amended to read:

50265. A commission on human relations created under the provisions of Section 50262 shall discharge the following obligations:

(a) To hold conferences, and other public meetings, in the interest of the constructive resolution of tensions, prejudice, and discrimination among or between groups of people, including people subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or any other factors.

(b) To issue any publications and reports of investigation as in its judgment will tend to effectuate the purposes of this article.

(c) To enlist the cooperation and participation of a variety of people, including people subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or any other factors, industry and labor organizations, media or mass communication, fraternal and benevolent associations, and other groups in an educational campaign



devoted to fostering among the diverse groups of the community mutual esteem, justice and equity.

(d) To encourage and stimulate agencies under the jurisdiction of the local governing body that created the commission to take any action as will fulfill the purposes of this article.

(e) To submit an annual report to the governing body.

