1	FAIR HOUSING AMENDMENT
2	1999 GENERAL SESSION
3	STATE OF UTAH
4	Sponsor: L. Steven Poulton
5	AN ACT RELATING TO THE UTAH FAIR HOUSING ACT; DELETING SOURCE OF
6	INCOME AS A PROHIBITED TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION; DELETING THE SUBPOENA
7	POWER OF THE DIVISION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION AND LABOR; REQUIRING A
8	FILING FEE FOR COMPLAINTS; REQUIRING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONCUR
9	WITH CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS OF THE DIVISION; LIMITING THE AVAILABLE
10	REMEDIES; AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES.
11	This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:
12	AMENDS:
13	57-21-2, as last amended by Chapter 375, Laws of Utah 1997
14	57-21-5, as last amended by Chapter 114, Laws of Utah 1993
15	57-21-6, as last amended by Chapter 114, Laws of Utah 1993
16	57-21-7, as last amended by Chapter 114, Laws of Utah 1993
17	57-21-8, as last amended by Chapter 375, Laws of Utah 1997
18	57-21-9, as last amended by Chapter 375, Laws of Utah 1997
19	57-21-10, as last amended by Chapter 375, Laws of Utah 1997
20	57-21-11, as last amended by Chapter 375, Laws of Utah 1997
21	57-21-12 , as enacted by Chapter 114, Laws of Utah 1993
22	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
23	Section 1. Section 57-21-2 is amended to read:
24	57-21-2. Definitions.
25	As used in this chapter:
26	(1) "Aggrieved person" includes any person who:
27	(a) claims to have been injured by a discriminatory housing practice; or

28 (b) believes that he will be injured by a discriminatory housing practice that is about to occur.

(2) "Commission" means the Labor Commission.

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- 31 (3) "Complainant" means an aggrieved person, including the director, who has commenced a complaint with the division.
 - (4) "Conciliation" means the attempted resolution of issues raised by a complaint of discriminatory housing practices by the investigation of the complaint through informal negotiations involving the complainant, the respondent, and the division.
 - (5) "Conciliation agreement" means a written agreement setting forth the resolution of the issues in conciliation.
 - (6) "Conciliation conference" means the attempted resolution of issues raised by a complaint or by the investigation of a complaint through informal negotiations involving the complainant, the respondent, and the division. The conciliation conference is not subject to Title 63, Chapter 46b, Administrative Procedures Act.
 - (7) "Covered multifamily dwellings" means:
 - (a) buildings consisting of four or more dwelling units if the buildings have one or more elevators; and
 - (b) ground floor units in other buildings consisting of four or more dwelling units.
 - (8) "Director" means the director of the division or a designee.
 - (9) (a) "Disability" means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities, including a person having a record of such an impairment or being regarded as having such an impairment.
 - (b) "Disability" does not include current illegal use of, or addiction to, any federally controlled substance, as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802.
 - (10) "Discriminate" includes segregate or separate.
 - (11) "Discriminatory housing practice" means an act that is unlawful under this chapter.
 - (12) "Division" means the Division of Antidiscrimination and Labor established under the commission.
 - (13) (a) "Dwelling" means any building or structure, or a portion of a building or structure, occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence of one or more families.
 - (b) "Dwelling" also includes vacant land that is offered for sale or lease for the construction

- or location of a dwelling as described in Subsection (13)(a).
- 60 (14) (a) "Familial status" means one or more individuals who have not attained the age of 61 18 years being domiciled with:
 - (i) a parent or another person having legal custody of the individual or individuals; or
 - (ii) the designee of the parent or other person having custody, with the written permission of the parent or other person.
 - (b) The protections afforded against discrimination on the basis of familial status shall apply to any person who:
 - (i) is pregnant;

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- 68 (ii) is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the 69 age of 18 years; or
 - (iii) is a single individual.
- 71 (15) "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any lineal ancestors.
 - (16) "Person" includes one or more individuals, corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, associations, labor organizations, legal representatives, mutual companies, joint-stock companies, trusts, unincorporated organizations, trustees, trustees in cases under the United States Bankruptcy Code, receivers, and fiduciaries.
 - (17) "Presiding officer" has the same meaning as provided in Section 63-46b-2.
 - (18) "Real estate broker" or "salesperson" means a principal real estate broker, an associate real estate broker, or a real estate sales agent as those terms are defined in Section 61-2-2.
 - (19) "Respondent" means a person against whom a complaint of housing discrimination has been initiated.
 - (20) "Sex" means gender and includes pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.
 - [(21) "Source of income" means the verifiable condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.]
 - Section 2. Section **57-21-5** is amended to read:
- 87 **57-21-5.** Discriminatory practices enumerated -- Protected persons, classes 88 enumerated.
 - (1) It is a discriminatory housing practice to do any of the following because of a person's

race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, [source of income,] or disability:

(a) refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental, or otherwise deny or make unavailable any dwelling from any person;

- (b) discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of the sale or rental of any dwelling or in providing facilities or services in connection with the dwelling; or
- (c) represent to any person that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when in fact the dwelling is available.
- (2) It is a discriminatory housing practice to make a representation orally or in writing or make, print, circulate, publish, post, or cause to be made, printed, circulated, published, or posted any notice, statement, or advertisement, or to use any application form for the sale or rental of a dwelling, that directly or indirectly expresses any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, [source of income,] or disability, or expresses any intent to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.
- (3) It is a discriminatory housing practice to induce or attempt to induce, for profit, any person to buy, sell, or rent any dwelling by making representations about the entry or prospective entry into the neighborhood of persons of a particular race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, [source of income,] or disability.
 - (4) A discriminatory housing practice includes:
- (a) a refusal to permit, at the expense of the disabled person, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by the person if the modifications are necessary to afford that person full enjoyment of the premises, except that in the case of a rental, the landlord, where it is reasonable to do so, may condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore the interior of the premises, when reasonable, to the condition that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted; and
- [(b) a refusal to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services when the accommodations may be necessary to afford the person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; and]
- [(c)] (b) in connection with the design and construction of covered multifamily dwellings for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, a failure to design and construct those dwellings in a manner that:
 - (i) the dwellings have at least one building entrance on an accessible route, unless it is

121 impracticable to have one because of the terrain or unusual characteristics of the site; and 122 (ii) with respect to dwellings with a building entrance on an accessible route: 123 (A) the public use and common use portions of the dwelling are readily accessible to and 124 usable by disabled persons; 125 (B) all the doors designed to allow passage into and within the dwellings are sufficiently 126 wide to allow passage by disabled persons in wheelchairs; and 127 (C) all premises within these dwellings contain the following features of adaptive design: 128 (I) an accessible route into and through the dwelling; 129 (II) light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats, and other environmental controls in 130 accessible locations; 131 (III) reinforcements in the bathroom walls to allow later installation of grab bars; and 132 (IV) kitchens and bathrooms such that an individual in a wheelchair can maneuver about 133 and use the space. 134 (5) This section also applies to discriminatory housing practices because of race, color, 135 religion, sex, national origin, familial status, [source of income,] or disability based upon a person's 136 association with another person. 137 Section 3. Section **57-21-6** is amended to read: 138 57-21-6. Discriminatory housing practices regarding residential real estate-related 139 transactions -- Discriminatory housing practices regarding the provisions of brokerage 140 services. 141 (1) It is a discriminatory housing practice for any person whose business includes engaging 142 in residential real estate-related transactions to discriminate against any person in making available 143 such a transaction, or in the terms or conditions of the transaction, because of race, color, religion, 144 sex, disability, familial status, [source of income,] or national origin. Residential real estate-related 145 transactions include: 146 (a) making or purchasing loans or providing other financial assistance: 147 (i) for purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a dwelling; or 148 (ii) secured by residential real estate; or 149 (b) selling, brokering, or appraising residential real property.

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participation in, any multiple-listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other service,

(2) It is a discriminatory housing practice to deny any person access to, or membership or

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152 organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings or to discriminate 153 against any person in the terms or conditions of access, membership, or participation in the 154 organization, service, or facility because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, 155 [source of income,] or national origin. 156 (3) This section also applies to discriminatory housing practices because of race, color, 157 religion, sex, national origin, familial status, [source of income,] or disability based upon a person's 158 association with another person. 159 Section 4. Section **57-21-7** is amended to read: 160 57-21-7. Prohibited conduct -- Aiding or abetting in discriminatory actions --161 **Obstruction of division investigation -- Reprisals.** 162 (1) It is a discriminatory housing practice to do any of the following: 163 (a) coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person: (i) in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected under this chapter; 164 (ii) because that person exercised any right granted or protected under this chapter; or 165 166 (iii) because that person aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment 167 of any right granted or protected under this chapter; 168 (b) aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce a person to engage in any of the practices prohibited 169 by this chapter; 170 (c) attempt to aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce a person to engage in any of the practices 171 prohibited by this chapter; 172 (d) obstruct or prevent any person from complying with this chapter, or any order issued 173 under this chapter; 174 (e) resist, prevent, impede, or interfere with the director or any division employees or 175 representatives in the performance of duty under this chapter; or 176 (f) engage in any reprisal against any person because that person: 177 (i) opposed a practice prohibited under this chapter; or 178 (ii) filed a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in any investigation, 179 proceeding, or hearing under this chapter. 180 (2) This section also applies to discriminatory housing practices because of race, color,

religion, sex, national origin, familial status, [source of income,] or disability based upon a person's

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association with another person.

183	Section 5. Section 57-21-8 is amended to read:
184	57-21-8. Jurisdiction Department Division.
185	(1) The commission has jurisdiction over the subject of housing discrimination under this
186	chapter and may delegate the responsibility of receiving, processing, and investigating allegations
187	of discriminatory housing practices and enforcing this chapter to the division.
188	(2) The commission may:
189	(a) adopt rules necessary to administer this chapter in accordance with Title 63, Chapter
190	46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and
191	(b) appoint and prescribe the duties of investigators, legal counsel, and other employees
192	and agents that it considers necessary for the enforcement of this chapter.
193	(3) The division [may]:
194	(a) shall receive, reject, investigate, and determine complaints alleging discriminatory
195	housing practices prohibited by this chapter;
196	[(b) issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of evidence
197	for use in any investigation, conference, or hearing conducted by the division, and if a person fails
198	to comply with such a subpoena, petition a court of competent jurisdiction for an order to show
199	cause why that person should not be held in contempt;]
200	[(c)] (b) shall attempt conciliation between the parties through informal efforts,
201	conference, persuasion, or other reasonable methods for the purposes of resolving the complaint;
202	[(d)] (c) may seek prompt judicial action for appropriate temporary or preliminary relief
203	pending final disposition of a complaint if the division [concludes] and the attorney general
204	conclude that such an action is necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;
205	[(e)] (d) may request that the attorney general initiate a civil action in a court of competent
206	jurisdiction to:
207	(i) enforce the rights granted or protected under this chapter;
208	(ii) seek injunctive or other equitable relief, including temporary restraining orders,
209	preliminary injunctions, or permanent injunctions;
210	(iii) seek damages; and
211	(iv) enforce final commission orders on the division's [own] behalf or on behalf of another
212	person in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and
213	[(f)] (e) may upon agreement of all parties initiate formal agency action under Title 63,

Chapter 46b, Administrative Procedures Act[; and].

215	[(g) promote public awareness of the rights and remedies under this chapter.]
216	Section 6. Section 57-21-9 is amended to read:
217	57-21-9. Procedure for an aggrieved person to file a complaint Conciliation
218	Investigation Determination.
219	(1) Any person aggrieved by a discriminatory housing practice may file a written verified
220	complaint with the division within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory housing practice
221	occurs by filing the complaint with the division and paying a \$35 filing fee. The division shall not
222	proceed with any complaint without the payment of the filing fee.
223	(2) (a) The commission shall adopt rules consistent with the provisions of 24 C.F.R. Sec.
224	115.3 (1990), relating to procedures under related federal law, to govern:
225	(i) the form of the complaint;
226	(ii) the form of any answer to the complaint;
227	(iii) procedures for filing or amending a complaint or answer; and
228	(iv) the form of notice to parties accused of the acts or omissions giving rise to the
229	complaint.
230	(b) The commission may, by rule, prescribe any other procedure pertaining to the division's
231	processing of the complaint.
232	(3) During the period beginning with the filing of the complaint and ending with the
233	director's determination and order, the division shall, to the extent feasible, engage in conciliation
234	with respect to the complaint.
235	(4) The division shall commence proceedings to investigate and conciliate a complaint
236	alleging a discriminatory housing practice within 30 days after the filing of the complaint.
237	(5) The division shall complete the investigation within 100 days after the filing of the
238	complaint, unless it is impracticable to do so. If the division is unable to complete the
239	investigation within 100 days after the filing of the complaint, the division shall notify the
240	complainant and respondent in writing of the reasons for the delay.
241	(6) If the division determines that there is no reasonable cause to support the allegations
242	in the complaint:
243	(a) the director or the director's designee shall issue a written determination and order for
244	the dismissal of the complainant and respondent; and

(b) the complainant, respondent, or an aggrieved party may submit a written request for a reconsideration of the director's or designee's determination and order within 20 days after the date of issuance of the director's determination and order pursuant to Section 63-46b-13. The decision of the Division of Adjudication may be appealed in accordance with Title 34A, Chapter 1, Part 3, Adjudicative Proceedings.

- (7) If the director or designee fails to receive a timely request for review under Subsection (6)(b), the determination and order become the final order of the commission.
- (8) If the division determines that there is reasonable cause to support the allegations in the complaint, all of the following apply:
- (a) The division shall informally endeavor to eliminate or correct the discriminatory housing practice through a conciliation conference between the parties, presided over by the division. Nothing said or done in the course of the conciliation conference may be made public or admitted as evidence in a subsequent proceeding under this chapter without the written consent of the parties concerned.
- (b) If the conciliation conference results in voluntary compliance with this chapter, a conciliation agreement setting forth the resolution of the issues shall be executed by the parties and approved by the division. The parties may enforce the conciliation agreement in an action filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (c) If the division is unable to obtain a conciliation agreement, the director shall issue a written determination and order to the complainant and respondent stating the findings of the division that the allegations of the complaint are supported by reasonable cause and ordering any appropriate relief under Section 57-21-11.
 - Section 7. Section **57-21-10** is amended to read:

57-21-10. Judicial election or formal adjudicative hearing.

- (1) If the director's determination and order finds that there is reasonable cause to believe that a discriminatory housing practice has occurred, or is about to occur, the complainant, respondent, or an aggrieved person on whose behalf a complaint has been filed may elect to have the findings of the division asserted in either a formal adjudicative hearing or in a civil action.
- (2) The election shall be submitted in writing to the director of the Division of Adjudication within 20 days from the date of issuance of the director's determination and order. If the director fails to receive a timely election, [the director's determination and order become the

final order of the commission] the matter shall be forwarded to the attorney general's office for a determination whether the matter should be adjudicated in a civil action in the district court.

- (3) If the complainant, respondent, or an aggrieved person elects to have the claims asserted in a formal adjudicative hearing or in a civil action, the Division of Adjudication shall give written notice to the complainant and respondent of that election.
- (4) If an election is made, the director of the Division of Adjudication or the director's designee and the attorney general shall determine whether the allegations of the complaint are supported by substantial evidence.
- (5) If the director of the Division of Adjudication or the director's designee [determines] and the attorney general determine that the allegations of the complaint are supported by substantial evidence, the director shall, pursuant to the election, refer the matter to the presiding officer to set a formal adjudicative hearing or commence a civil action in an appropriate district court within 30 days from the date the election is made. The Division of Adjudication shall provide legal representation on behalf of the aggrieved person.
- (6) If the director of the Division of Adjudication or the director's designee determines that the allegations of the complaint are not supported by substantial evidence, the <u>division shall</u> <u>discontinue its involvement in the matter, and the</u> complainant may commence a private civil action under Subsection 57-21-12(1).
- (7) Upon timely application, an aggrieved person may intervene with respect to the issues to be determined in a formal adjudicative hearing or in a civil action brought under this section.
 - (8) If a formal adjudicative hearing is elected, all of the following apply:
- (a) The presiding officer shall commence the formal adjudicative hearing within 120 days after the complainant, respondent, or aggrieved person makes the election, unless it is impracticable to do so.
- (b) The investigator who investigated the matter may not participate in the formal adjudicative hearing, except as a witness, nor may the investigator participate in the deliberations of the presiding officer.
- (c) Any party to the complaint may file a written request to the Division of Adjudication for review of the presiding officer's order in accordance with Section 63-46b-12 and Title 34A, Chapter 1, Part 3, Adjudicative Proceedings.
 - (d) A final order of the commission under this section is subject to judicial review as

provided in Section 63-46b-16 and Title 34A, Chapter 1, Part 3, Adjudicative Proceedings.

(9) If a civil action is elected, the commission is barred from continuing or commencing any adjudicative proceeding in connection with the same claims under this chapter.

- (10) The commission shall make final administrative disposition of the complaint alleging a discriminatory housing practice within one year after the filing of the complaint[, unless it is impracticable to do so. If the commission is unable to make final administrative disposition within one year, the commission shall notify the complainant, respondent, and any other interested party in writing of the reasons for the delay].
 - Section 8. Section **57-21-11** is amended to read:

57-21-11. Relief granted -- Civil penalties -- Enforcement of final order.

- (1) Under Sections 57-21-9 and 57-21-10, if the director, presiding officer, commissioner, Appeals Board, or court finds reasonable cause to believe that a discriminatory housing practice has occurred [or is about to occur], the director, presiding officer, commissioner, Appeals Board, or court may order, as considered appropriate:
 - (a) the respondent to cease any discriminatory housing practice;
 - (b) actual damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to the aggrieved person; and
- (c) any permanent or temporary injunction, temporary restraining order, or other appropriate order.
- (2) In addition to the relief granted to an aggrieved person under Subsection (1), in order to vindicate the public interest, the director, presiding officer, or court may also assess civil penalties <u>for intentional violations of this chapter</u> against the respondent in an amount not exceeding:
- (a) \$10,000 if the respondent has not been adjudged in a final order of a formal administrative hearing or a judgement in district court to have committed any prior discriminatory housing practice;
- (b) \$25,000 if the respondent has been adjudged in a separate action concluding in a final order of a formal administrative hearing or a judgement in district court to have committed one other discriminatory housing practice during the <u>previous</u> five-year period ending on the date of the filing of the complaint; or
- (c) \$50,000 if the respondent has been adjudged in two other separate actions concluding in final orders of a formal administrative hearing or judgements in district court to have committed

two or more discriminatory housing practices during the [seven-year] previous five-year period ending on the date of the filing of this complaint.

- (3) The time periods in Subsections (2)(b) and (c) may be disregarded if the acts constituting the discriminatory housing practice are committed by the same natural person who has previously been adjudged to have committed a discriminatory housing practice.
 - [(4) The division may file a petition in a district court of competent jurisdiction for:]
- 344 [(a) the enforcement of a final department order; and]
 - [(b) for any appropriate temporary relief or restraining order necessary for the enforcement of a final commission order.]
 - Section 9. Section **57-21-12** is amended to read:

57-21-12. Other rights of action.

- (1) In addition to the procedure outlined in Subsection 57-21-9(1), a person aggrieved by a discriminatory housing practice may commence a private civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction within two years after an alleged discriminatory housing practice occurred, within two years after the termination of an alleged discriminatory housing practice, or within two years after a breach of a conciliation agreement. [The division shall inform the aggrieved person in writing about this option within 30 days after the aggrieved person files a complaint under Section 57-21-9.]
- (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the computation of this two-year time period does not include any time during which an administrative proceeding under this chapter was pending with respect to a complaint filed under this chapter.
- (b) The tolling of the two-year time period does not apply to actions arising from a breach of a conciliation agreement.
- (3) An aggrieved person may commence a private civil action even though a complaint has been filed with the division, in which case the division is barred from continuing or commencing any adjudicative proceeding in connection with the same claims under this chapter after:
 - (a) the beginning of a civil action brought by a complainant or aggrieved person; or
- (b) the parties have reached an agreement in settlement of claims arising from the complaint.
 - (4) An aggrieved person may not file a private civil action under this section if:

369	(a) the division has obtained a conciliation agreement, except for the purpose of enforcing
370	the terms of the conciliation agreement; or
371	(b) the division has commenced a formal adjudicative hearing under Section 57-21-10
372	regarding the same complaint.
373	[(5) Upon written application by a person alleging a discriminatory housing practice
374	prohibited under this chapter in a private civil action, or by a person against whom the violations
375	are alleged, the court may:]
376	[(a) appoint an attorney for the applicant; and]
377	[(b) authorize the commencement or continuation of a private civil action without the
378	payment of fees, costs, or security if, in the opinion of the court, the applicant is financially unable
379	to bear the costs of the civil action.]
380	[(6) Upon timely application, the division may intervene in a private civil action brought
381	under this subsection if the division certifies that the case is of general importance.]
382	[(7)] (5) In a private civil action, if the court finds that a discriminatory housing practice
383	has occurred [or is about to occur], the court may:
384	(a) order the respondent to cease any discriminatory housing practice;
385	(b) award to the plaintiff actual damages[, punitive damages] and reasonable attorneys' fees
386	and costs; and
387	(c) grant, as the court considers appropriate, any permanent or temporary injunction,
388	temporary restraining order, or other order as may be appropriate, including civil penalties under
389	Section 57-21-11.
390	[(8)] (6) This chapter does not preclude any private right of action by an aggrieved person

[(8)] (6) This chapter does not preclude any private right of action by an aggrieved person based on otherwise applicable law not included in this chapter.

Legislative Review Note as of 2-4-99 12:52 PM

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A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel