

Chairman Mendelson
at the request of the Attorney General

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Mendelson, at the request of the Attorney General, introduced the following bill,
which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To amend the Human Rights Act of 1977 to clarify the available remedies for the Attorney
General in the prosecution of civil rights violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
act may be cited as the “Attorney General Civil Rights Enforcement Temporary Amendment Act
of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Human Rights Act of 1977, effective December 13, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-38;
D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 *et seq.*), is amended by adding a new section 316a to read as
follows:

“In a civil action initiated by the Attorney General for the District of Columbia
 (“Attorney General”) for violations of this act, other than an action brought under section 307:

“(1) The Attorney General may obtain:

“(A) Injunctive relief, as described in section 307;

“(B) Civil penalties, up to the amounts described in section 313(a)(1)(E-
1), for each action or practice in violation of this act, and, in the context of a discriminatory
advertisement, for each day the advertisement was posted, and;

34 “(C) Any other form of relief described in section 313(a)(1); and
35 “(2) The Attorney General may seek subpoenas for the production of documents
36 and materials or for the attendance and testimony of witnesses under oath, or both, which shall
37 contain the information described in section 110a(b) of the Attorney General for the District of
38 Columbia Clarification and Elected Term Amendment Act of 2010, effective October 22, 2015
39 (D.C. Law 21-36; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.88d(b)) (“Act”), and shall follow the procedures
40 described in section 110a(c), (d), and (e) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 1-301.88d(c), (d), and
41 (e)); provided, that the subpoenas are not directed to a District government official or entity.”

42 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

43 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal
44 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
45 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

46 Sec. 4. Effective date.

47 (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by
48 the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review
49 as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
50 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
51 Columbia Register.

52 (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.