



Senate Bill 1073

An Act Concerning Equity and Opportunity in State Government

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Government Administration & Elections Committee

March 24, 2021

Good morning Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco and distinguished members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit informational testimony supporting of the Committee's effort to address the issue of equity and opportunity in State Government policies and programs.

Senate Bill 1073 would require DAS to study and assess state agency policies and actions to determine if they create or exacerbate barriers to full and equal participation by all eligible individuals. The bill further requires DAS to work with all state agencies to select certain programs and policies to review and assess whether underserved communities and their members face systemic barriers in accessing benefits and opportunities available pursuant to those policies and programs.

The Administration feels this is an important issue and is generally supportive of having state agencies review and assess their programs and policies to identify systemic barriers to accessing such programs and policies. DAS strongly suggests that we work in coordination with OPM to carry out this study. This will be a significant undertaking that will require substantial resources, and we will work with whatever resources the General Assembly sees fit to provide for this purpose, if such resources are available.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We look forward to working with the Committee to address this issue.