



Legislation Summary:

An Act promoting equality and respect in the legislature

Initial bill number(s): S.2061

Sponsor: Rebecca L. Rausch

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.

This legislation is designed to provide a remedy for State House personnel subject to workplace harassment, including retaliation. Workplace harassment refers to identity-based harassment, sexual harassment, or sexual assault. This bill provides for the establishment of an independent commission on workplace harassment and sexual assault. The commission will be within the executive office of administration and finance, but not under its control nor under the control of the House, Senate, or their leadership. The commission will address claims and investigate and report on complaints of workplace harassment.

The Commission will investigate and issue findings on specific complaints, conduct an annual, anonymous workplace harassment survey, and present an annual report on the state of workplace harassment. In addition, the Commission will develop model policies and training regarding workplace harassment.

LWVMA supports this bill because the League is in favor of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. *Impact on Issues*, p.122