

5799

Sponsor(s): Senators T. Sheldon and Hochstatter

Brief Description: Changing housing discrimination complaint procedures.

SB 5799 - DIGEST

Declares that notwithstanding any other provision of chapter 49.60 RCW, it is not an unfair practice for any person to consistently apply a written credit policy, if the written policy does not on its face violate any provision of RCW 49.60.222.

Requires each allegation of discrimination in a complaint to be simple, concise, direct, and stated with particularity. If an allegation is so vague or ambiguous that a party cannot reasonably frame a response, or if more particularity in that allegation will further the efficient and economical disposition of the allegation, the responding party may request a more definite statement before responding to the complaint.

Requires that, before bringing a complaint under RCW 49.60.230, the complainant must file an application for tenancy. The complainant may not bring a complaint if an application for tenancy has not been filed, unless the complainant was prevented from filing the application due to the alleged act of discrimination.

Provides that, when a complaint is filed under RCW 49.60.230, a respondent may elect to have the claims asserted in that complaint decided in a civil action in superior court. This election must be made within thirty days of service on the person making the election. The person making the election shall give notice of doing so to the commission and to all other complainants and respondents to whom the complaint relates.