



HB 0215

2003

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992;
3 creating s. 760.021, F.S.; authorizing the Attorney
4 General to commence a civil action to obtain damages or
5 other relief for a civil rights violation under certain
6 circumstances; providing for attorney's fees and costs;
7 providing an effective date.

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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11 Section 1. Section 760.021, Florida Statutes, is created
12 to read:

13 760.021 Enforcement.--If the Attorney General has
14 reasonable cause to believe that:

15 (1) Any person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern
16 or practice of discrimination as defined by the laws of this
17 state; or

18 (2) Any person or group of persons has been discriminated
19 against as defined by the laws of this state and such
20 discrimination raises an issue of general public importance,

21
22 the Attorney General may commence a civil action in any
23 appropriate court for damages, injunctive relief, civil
24 penalties not to exceed \$10,000 per violation, and such other
25 relief as may be appropriate under the circumstances. Any
26 damages recovered under this section shall accrue to the injured
27 person or group of persons. The Attorney General is entitled to
28 an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs if the
29 Department of Legal Affairs prevails in an action brought under
30 this section.



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Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.