

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 2676

**DATE:** March 6, 2004

**Version:** As introduced

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**Subject:** Human Rights Department Procedures

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### Section

- 1** **Charge processing.** Amends the Human Rights Act provision that requires the commissioner to make a probable cause determination within 12 months after a charge is filed. Stops the 12 months from running during the time another civil rights agency is investigating the matter under a work sharing agreement.

Amends current law that allows the chief administrative law judge to adopt sanctions for intentional and frivolous delay by a party. Gives as examples of sanctions: damages, attorney fees, and costs. Gives the department standing to seek sanctions; current law allows the charging party and respondent to do so.

- 2** **Access to closed files.** Amends current law, which makes data in a closed case file private (on individuals) or nonpublic (on entities). Allows the commissioner to disclose data in a closed file to another agency to assist in complaint processing or eliminate duplication of efforts in an investigation. Requires that data released under this provision retain its private/nonpublic classification in the hands of the receiving agency.
- 3** **Repealer.** Repeals current law that allows a charging party to request a hearing if there has been no finding on the issue of probable cause by 180 days after the charge was filed.