

## **Chapter 220**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Discriminatory Practices**

##### **Section 220.010. Unlawful Housing Practices.**

A. It shall be an unlawful housing practice:

1. To refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, to refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, to deny or otherwise make unavailable a dwelling to any person because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability or familial status.
2. To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection therewith, because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability or familial status.
3. To make, print or publish or cause to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability or familial status or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
4. To represent to any person because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability or familial status that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale or rental when such dwelling is in fact so available.
5. To induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability or familial status.
6. To discriminate in the sale or rental, or to otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any buyer or renter because of a disability of:
  - a. That buyer or renter;
  - b. A person residing in or intending to reside in that dwelling after it is so sold, rented or made available; or
  - c. Any person associated with that buyer or renter.
7. To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with

such dwelling, because of a disability of:

- a. That person;
- b. A person residing in or intending to reside in that dwelling after it is so sold, rented or made available; or
- c. Any person associated with that person.

B. For purposes of Sections 220.010, 220.020 and 220.030, discrimination includes:

1. A refusal to permit, at the expense of the person with the disability, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by such person if such modifications may be necessary to afford such person full enjoyment of the premises, except that, in the case of a rental, the landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so, condition permission for a modification on the renter's agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted.
2. A refusal to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.
3. In connection with the design and construction of covered multi-family dwellings for first (1st) occupancy after March 13, 1991, a failure to design and construct those dwellings in such a manner that:
  - a. The public use and common use portions of such dwellings are readily accessible to and usable by persons with a disability.
  - b. All the doors designed to allow passage into and within all premises within such dwellings are sufficiently wide to allow passage by persons with a disability in wheelchairs.
  - c. All premises within such dwellings contain the following features of adaptive design:
    - (1) An accessible route into and through the dwelling;
    - (2) Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other environmental controls in accessible locations;
    - (3) Reinforcements in bathroom walls to allow later installation of grab bars; and
    - (4) Usable kitchens and bathrooms such that an individual in a wheelchair can maneuver about the space.

C. As used in Subdivision (3) of Subsection (B) of this Section, the term "*covered multi-family dwelling*" means:

1. Buildings consisting of four (4) or more units if such buildings have one (1) or more elevators; and

2. Ground floor units in other buildings consisting of four (4) or more units.
- D. Compliance with the appropriate requirements of the American National Standard for Buildings and Facilities providing accessibility and usability for people with physically disabilities, commonly cited as "ANSI A117.1", suffices to satisfy the requirements of Subsection (B)(3)(a) of this Section.

**Section 220.020. Discrimination in Commercial Real Estate Loans.**

It shall be unlawful for any bank, building and loan association, insurance company or other corporation, association, firm or enterprise whose business consists in whole or in part in the making of commercial real estate loans to deny a loan or other financial assistance because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability or familial status to a person applying therefor for the purpose of purchasing, construction, improving, repairing or maintaining a dwelling or to discriminate against him/her in fixing of the amount, interest rate, duration or other terms or conditions of such loan or other financial assistance because of the race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability or familial status of such person or of any person associated with him/her in connection with such loan or other financial assistance or of the present or prospective owners, lessees, tenants or occupants of the dwellings in relation to which such loan or other financial assistance is to be made or given.

**Section 220.030. Discrimination in Selling or Renting by Real Estate Agencies Prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful to deny any person access to or membership or participation in any multiple listing service, real estate brokers' organization or other service organization or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings on account of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability or familial status.

**Section 220.040. Discrimination in Public Accommodations Prohibited — Exceptions.**

- A. All persons within the City of Houston Lake are free and equal and shall be entitled to the full and equal use and enjoyment within this State of any place of public accommodation, as hereinafter defined, without discrimination or segregation on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry or disability.
- B. It is an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person, directly or indirectly, to refuse, withhold from or deny any other person or to attempt to refuse, withhold from or deny any other person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, services or privileges made available in any place of public accommodation, as defined in Section 213.010, RSMo., and this Section, or to segregate or discriminate against any such person in the use thereof on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry or disability.
- C. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to a private club, a place of accommodation owned by or operated on behalf of a religious corporation, association or society or other establishment which is not in fact open to the public, unless the facilities of such establishments are made available to the customers or patrons of a place of public accommodation as defined in Section 213.010, RSMo., and this Section.

**Section 220.050. Additional Unlawful Discriminatory Practices.**

- A. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice:
1. To aid, abet, incite, compel or coerce the commission of acts prohibited under this Chapter or to attempt to do so;
  2. To retaliate or discriminate in any manner against any other person because such person has opposed any practice prohibited by this Chapter or because such person has filed a complaint, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing conducted pursuant to this Chapter;
  3. For the City to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age as it relates to employment, disability or familial status as it relates to housing; or
  4. To discriminate in any manner against any other person because of such person's association with any person protected by this Chapter.

**Section 220.060. Exemptions.**

- A. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to invalidate or limit any law of the State or of the City that requires dwellings to be designed and constructed in a manner that affords persons with disabilities greater access than is required by this Chapter.
- B. Nothing in Sections 220.010, 220.020 and 220.030:
1. Requires that a dwelling be made available to an individual whose tenancy would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or whose tenancy would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others.
  2. Limits the applicability of any reasonable local restriction regarding the maximum number of occupants permitted to occupy a dwelling, nor does any provision of said Sections regarding familial status apply with respect to housing for older persons.
  3. Shall prohibit conduct against a person because such person has been convicted by any court of competent jurisdiction of the illegal manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance as defined by Section 195.010, RSMo.
- C. Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit a religious organization, association or society or any non-profit institution or organization operated, supervised or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious organization, association or society from limiting the sale, rental or occupancy of dwellings which it owns or operates for other than a commercial purpose to persons of the same religion or from giving preference to such persons, unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color or national origin. Nor shall anything in this Chapter prohibit a private club not in fact open to the public, which as an incident to its primary purpose or purposes provides lodging which it owns or operates for other than a commercial purpose, from limiting the rental or occupancy of such lodging to its members or from giving preference to its members.
- D. Nothing in this Chapter, other than the prohibitions against discriminatory advertising in Subsection (A)(3) of Section 220.010, shall apply to:

1. The sale or rental of any single-family house by a private individual owner, provided the following conditions are met:
  - a. The private individual owner does not own or have any interest in more than three (3) single-family houses at any one time; and
  - b. The house is sold or rented without the use of a real estate broker, agent or salesperson or the facilities of any person in the business of selling or renting dwellings and without publication, posting or mailing of any advertisement. If the owner selling the house does not reside in it at the time of the sale or was not the most recent resident of the house prior to such sale, the exemption in this Section applies to only one (1) such sale in any twenty-four (24) month period.
2. Rooms or units in dwellings containing living quarters occupied or intended to be occupied by no more than four (4) families living independently of each other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies one (1) of such living quarters as his/her residence.