

PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT - OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS

Act of Dec. 20, 1991, P.L. 414, No. 51

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HB 1827

AN ACT

Amending the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), entitled, as amended, "An act prohibiting certain practices of discrimination because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age or national origin by employers, employment agencies, labor organizations and others as herein defined; creating the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in the Department of Labor and Industry; defining its functions, powers and duties; providing for procedure and enforcement; providing for formulation of an educational program to prevent prejudice; providing for judicial review and enforcement and imposing penalties," further providing for the right to freedom from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations; prohibiting discrimination because of familial status; amending and adding certain definitions; further providing for the powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; further providing for enforcement, remedies and penalties; making editorial changes; and continuing the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission pursuant to the Sunset Act.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The title of the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), known as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, amended February 28, 1961 (P.L.47, No.19), is amended to read:

AN ACT

Prohibiting certain practices of discrimination because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age or national origin by employers, employment agencies, labor organizations and others as herein defined; creating the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in the [Department of Labor and Industry] **Governor's Office**; defining its functions, powers and duties; providing for procedure and enforcement; providing for formulation of an educational program to prevent prejudice; providing for judicial review and enforcement and imposing penalties.

Section 2. Sections 2 and 3 of the act, amended December 16, 1986 (P.L.1626, No.186), are amended to read:

Section 2. Findings and Declaration of Policy.--

(a) The practice or policy of discrimination against individuals or groups by reason of their race, color, **familial status**, religious creed, ancestry, **age, sex, national origin**, handicap or disability, use of guide [animals because of blindness or deafness of the user, use of support animals because of a] **or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or** physical handicap of the user or because the user

is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals[, age, sex, or national origin] is a matter of concern of the Commonwealth. Such discrimination foments domestic strife and unrest, threatens the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth, and undermines the foundations of a free democratic state. The denial of equal employment, housing and public accommodation opportunities because of such discrimination, and the consequent failure to utilize the productive capacities of individuals to their fullest extent, deprives large segments of the population of the Commonwealth of earnings necessary to maintain decent standards of living, necessitates their resort to public relief and intensifies group conflicts, thereby resulting in grave injury to the public health and welfare, compels many individuals to live in dwellings which are substandard, unhealthful and overcrowded, resulting in racial segregation in public schools and other community facilities, juvenile delinquency and other evils, thereby threatening the peace, health, safety and general welfare of the Commonwealth and its inhabitants.

(b) It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this Commonwealth to foster the employment of all individuals in accordance with their fullest capacities regardless of their race, color, religious creed, ancestry, **age, sex, national origin**, handicap or disability, use of guide [dogs because of blindness or deafness of the user, use of support animals because of a] **or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or** physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, [age, sex, or national origin,] and to safeguard their right to obtain and hold employment without such discrimination, to assure equal opportunities to all individuals and to safeguard their rights to public accommodation and to secure housing accommodation and commercial property regardless of race, color, **familial status**, religious creed, ancestry, [sex,] **age, sex, national origin**, handicap or disability, use of guide **or support** animals because of blindness or deafness of the user [or national origin] **or because the user is a handler or trainer of guide or support animals.**

(c) This act shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the Commonwealth for the protection of the public welfare, prosperity, health and peace of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 3. Right to Freedom from Discrimination in Employment, Housing and Public Accommodation.--The opportunity for an individual to obtain employment for which he is qualified, and to obtain all the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of any public accommodation and of **any** housing accommodation and commercial property without discrimination because of race, color, **familial status**, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, age, sex, national origin, the use of a guide or support animal because of **the** blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals is hereby recognized as and declared to be a civil right which shall be enforceable as set forth in this act.

Section 3. Section 4 of the act, amended February 28, 1961 (P.L.47, No.19), January 24, 1966 (1965 P.L.1523, No.533), November 29, 1967 (P.L.632, No.291), December 19, 1974 (P.L.966, No.318), November 26, 1978 (P.L.1292, No.309), December 9, 1982 (P.L.1053, No.247), December 15, 1982 (P.L.1267, No.288) and December 16, 1986 (P.L.1626, No.186), is amended to read:

Section 4. Definitions.--As used in this act unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

(a) The term "person" includes one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, organizations, corporations, legal representatives, trustees in bankruptcy or receivers. It also includes, but is not limited to, any owner, lessor, assignor, builder, manager, broker, salesman, agent, employee, **independent contractor**, lending institution and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and all political subdivisions, authorities, boards and commissions thereof.

(b) The term "employer" includes the Commonwealth or any political subdivision or board, department, commission or school district thereof and any person employing four or more persons within the Commonwealth, but except as hereinafter provided, does not include religious, fraternal, charitable or sectarian corporations or associations, except such corporations or associations supported, in whole or in part, by governmental appropriations. The term "employer" with respect to discriminatory practices based on race, color, age, sex, national origin or non-job related handicap or disability, includes religious, fraternal, charitable and sectarian corporations and associations employing four or more persons within the Commonwealth.

(c) The term "employee" does not include (1) any individual employed in agriculture or in the domestic service of any person, (2) any individuals who, as a part of their employment, reside in the personal residence of the employer, (3) any individual employed by said individual's parents, spouse or child.

(d) The term "labor organizations" includes any organization which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment or of other mutual aid or protection in relation to employment.

(e) The term "employment agency" includes any person regularly undertaking, with or without compensation, to procure opportunities to work or to procure, recruit, refer or place employees.

(f) The term "Commission" means the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission created by this act.

(g) The term "discriminate" includes segregate.

(h) The term "age" includes any person [between the ages of forty and seventy inclusive] **forty years of age or older** and shall also include any other person so protected by further amendment to the Federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

(i) The term "housing accommodations" includes (1) any building, structure, mobile home site or facility, or portion thereof, which is used or occupied or is intended, arranged or designed to be used or occupied as the home residence or sleeping place of one or more individuals, groups or families whether or not living independently of each other; and (2) any vacant land offered for sale, lease or held for the purpose of constructing or locating thereon any such building, structure, mobile home site or facility. The term "housing accommodation" shall not include any personal residence offered for rent by the owner or lessee thereof or by his or her broker, salesperson, agent or employee.

(j) The term "commercial property" means (1) any building, structure or facility, or portion thereof, which is used, occupied or is intended, arranged or designed to be used or occupied for the purpose of operating a business, an office, a manufactory or any public accommodation; and (2) any vacant

land offered for sale, lease or held for the purpose of constructing or locating thereon any such building, structure, facility, business concern or public accommodation.

(k) The term "personal residence" means a building or structure containing living quarters occupied or intended to be occupied by no more than two individuals, two groups or two families living independently of each other and used by the owner or lessee thereof as a bona fide residence for himself and any members of his family forming his household.

(l) The term "public accommodation, resort or amusement" means any accommodation, resort or amusement which is open to, accepts or solicits the patronage of the general public, including but not limited to inns, taverns, roadhouses, hotels, motels, whether conducted for the entertainment of transient guests or for the accommodation of those seeking health, recreation or rest, or restaurants or eating houses, or any place where food is sold for consumption on the premises, buffets, saloons, barrooms or any store, park or enclosure where spirituous or malt liquors are sold, ice cream parlors, confectioneries, soda fountains and all stores where ice cream, ice and fruit preparations or their derivatives, or where beverages of any kind are retailed for consumption on the premises, drug stores, dispensaries, clinics, hospitals, bathhouses, swimming pools, barber shops, beauty parlors, retail stores and establishments, theatres, motion picture houses, airdromes, roof gardens, music halls, race courses, skating rinks, amusement and recreation parks, fairs, bowling alleys, gymnasiums, shooting galleries, billiard and pool parlors, public libraries, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, high schools, academies, colleges and universities, extension courses and all educational institutions under the supervision of this Commonwealth, nonsectarian cemeteries, garages and all public conveyances operated on land or water or in the air as well as the stations, terminals and airports thereof, financial institutions and all Commonwealth facilities and services, including such facilities and services of all political subdivisions thereof, but shall not include any accommodations which are in their nature distinctly private.

(m) The term "political subdivision" means any county, city, borough, incorporated town or township of this Commonwealth.

(n) The term "legislative body" means the body or board authorized by law to enact ordinances or adopt resolutions for the political subdivision.

(o) The term "local commission" means a Human Relations Commission created by the legislative body of a political subdivision.

(p) The term "non-job related handicap or disability" means any handicap or disability which does not substantially interfere with the ability to perform the essential functions of the employment which a handicapped person applies for, is engaged in or has been engaged in. Uninsurability or increased cost of insurance under a group or employee insurance plan does not render a handicap or disability job related.

(p.1) The term "handicap or disability," with respect to a person, means:

(1) a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities;

(2) a record of having such an impairment; or

(3) being regarded as having such an impairment,
but such term does not include current, illegal use of or
addiction to a controlled substance, as defined in section 102

of the Controlled Substances Act (Public Law 91-513, 21 U.S.C. § 802).

(q) The term "permanent hearing examiner" shall mean a full-time employee who is an attorney.

(r) The term "designated agent of the complainant" shall mean an individual who is a para-legal under the supervision of a practicing attorney.

(s) The term "commercial profit" means any form of compensation in money, or which can be measured in terms of money.

(t) The term "familial status" means one or more individuals who have not attained the age of eighteen years being domiciled with:

(1) a parent or other person having legal custody of such individual or individuals; or

(2) the designee of such parent or other person having such custody, with the written permission of such parent or other person.

The protections afforded against discrimination on the basis of familial status shall apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

(u) The term "Fair Housing Act" means Public Law 90-284, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.

(v) The term "accessible" means being in compliance with the applicable standards set forth in the following:

(1) the Fair Housing Act (Public Law 90-284, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.);

(2) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.); and

(3) the act of September 1, 1965 (P.L.459, No.235), entitled, as amended, "An act requiring that certain buildings and facilities adhere to certain principles, standards and specifications to make the same accessible to and usable by persons with physical handicaps, and providing for enforcement."

(w) (1) The term "housing for older persons" means housing:

(i) provided under any Federal or State program that the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission determines is specifically designed and operated to assist elderly persons as defined in the Federal or State program;

(ii) is intended for and solely occupied by persons sixty-two years of age or older; or

(iii) is intended and operated for occupancy by at least one person fifty-five years of age or older per unit.

(2) In determining whether housing qualifies as housing for older persons under this clause, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission's requirements shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(i) the existence of significant facilities and services specifically designed to meet the physical or social needs of older persons, or if the provision of such facilities and services is not practicable, that such housing is necessary to provide important housing opportunities for older persons;

(ii) that at least eighty percent of the units are occupied by at least one person fifty-five years of age or older per unit; and

(iii) the publication of, and adherence to, policies and procedures which demonstrate an intent by the owner or manager to provide housing for persons fifty-five years of age or older.

(3) Housing shall not fail to meet the requirements for housing for older persons by reason of unoccupied units provided that such units are reserved for occupancy by persons who meet the age requirements of this clause.

(x) The term "independent contractor" includes any person who is subject to the provisions governing any of the professions and occupations regulated by State licensing laws enforced by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in the Department of State, or is included in the Fair Housing Act (Public Law 90-284, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.).

(y) The term "real estate-related transaction" means any of the following:

(1) The making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance for purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing or maintaining a housing accommodation or commercial property.

(2) The purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing or maintaining a housing accommodation or commercial property.

(3) The selling, brokering or appraising of real property.

Section 4. Sections 5, 5.3 and 6 of the act, added or amended December 16, 1986 (P.L.1626, No.186), are amended to read:

Section 5. Unlawful Discriminatory Practices.--It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification, or in the case of a fraternal corporation or association, unless based upon membership in such association or corporation, or except where based upon applicable security regulations established by the United States or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

(a) For any employer because of the race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin or non-job related handicap or disability **or the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap** of any individual **or independent contractor**, to refuse to hire or employ **or contract with**, or to bar or to discharge from employment such individual **or independent contractor**, or to otherwise discriminate against such individual **or independent contractor** with respect to compensation, hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment **or contract**, if the individual **or independent contractor** is the best able and most competent to perform the services required. The provision of this paragraph shall not apply, to (1) [termination of employment because of the terms or conditions of any bona fide retirement or pension plan, (2)] operation of the terms or conditions of any bona fide retirement or pension plan which have the effect of a minimum service requirement, [(3)] **(2)** operation of the terms or conditions of any bona fide group or employee insurance plan, [(4)] **(3)** age limitations placed upon entry into bona fide apprenticeship programs of two years or more approved by the State Apprenticeship and Training Council of the Department of Labor and Industry, established by the act of July 14, 1961 (P.L.604, No.304), known as "The Apprenticeship and Training Act." Notwithstanding any provision of this clause, it shall not be an unlawful employment practice for a religious corporation or association to hire or employ on the basis of sex in those certain instances where sex is a bona fide occupational qualification because of the religious beliefs, practices, or observances of the corporation, or association.

(b) For any employer, employment agency or labor organization, prior to the employment, **contracting with an independent contractor** or admission to membership, to:

(1) Elicit any information or make or keep a record of or use any form of application or application blank containing questions or entries concerning the race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin [or], past handicap or disability **or the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap** of any applicant for employment or membership. [An employer may inquire as to the existence and nature of a present handicap or disability. To determine whether such handicap or disability substantially interferes with the ability to perform the essential function of the employment which is applied for, is being engaged in, or has been engaged in, the employer must inquire beyond the mere existence of a handicap or disability.] **Prior to an offer of employment, an employer may not inquire as to whether an individual has a handicap or disability or as to the severity of such handicap or disability. An employer may inquire as to the individual's ability to perform the essential functions of the employment.**

(2) Print or publish or cause to be printed or published any notice or advertisement relating to employment or membership indicating any preference, limitation, specification or discrimination based upon race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin [or], non-job related handicap or disability **or the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user.**

(3) Deny or limit, through a quota system, employment or membership because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, non-job related handicap or disability, **the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user** or place of birth.

(4) Substantially confine or limit recruitment or hiring of individuals, with intent to circumvent the spirit and purpose of this act, to any employment agency, employment service, labor organization, training school or training center or any other employe-referring source which services individuals who are predominantly of the same race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin or non-job related handicap or disability.

(5) Deny employment because of a prior handicap or disability.

Nothing in clause (b) of this section shall bar any institution or organization for handicapped or disabled persons from limiting or giving preference in employment or membership to handicapped or disabled persons.

(c) For any labor organization because of the race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin [or], non-job related handicap or disability **or the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap** of any individual to deny full and equal membership rights to any individual or otherwise to discriminate against such individuals with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment or any other matter, directly or indirectly, related to employment.

(d) For any person, employer, employment agency or labor organization to discriminate in any manner against any individual because such individual has opposed any practice forbidden by this act, or because such individual has made a charge, testified or assisted, in any manner, in any investigation, proceeding or hearing under this act.

(e) For any person, employer, employment agency, labor organization or employee, to aid, abet, incite, compel or coerce the doing of any act declared by this section to be an unlawful discriminatory practice, or to obstruct or prevent any person from complying with the provisions of this act or any order issued thereunder, or to attempt, directly or indirectly, to commit any act declared by this section to be an unlawful discriminatory practice.

(f) For any employment agency to fail or refuse to classify properly, refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against any individual because of his race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin [or], non-job related handicap or disability **or the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user.**

(g) For any individual seeking employment to publish or cause to be published any advertisement which in any manner expresses a limitation or preference as to the race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin [or], non-job related handicap or disability **or the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap** of any prospective employer.

(h) For any person to:

(1) Refuse to sell, lease, finance or otherwise to deny or withhold any housing accommodation or commercial property from any person because of the race, color, **familial status, age,** religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin or handicap or disability of any **person,** prospective owner, occupant or user of such housing accommodation or commercial property, or to refuse to lease any housing accommodation or commercial property to any person due to use of a guide animal because of the blindness or deafness of the user, [or] use of a support animal because of a physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals **or because of the handicap or disability of an individual with whom the person is known to have a relationship or association.**

(1.1) Evict or attempt to evict an occupant of any housing accommodation before the end of the term of a lease because of pregnancy or the birth of a child.

(2) Refuse to lend money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of any housing accommodation or commercial property or otherwise withhold financing of any housing accommodation or commercial property from any person because of the race, color, **familial status, age,** religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability [or] **of any person,** the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals[, of any present or prospective owner, occupant or user of such housing accommodation or commercial property] **or because of the handicap or disability of an individual with whom the person is known to have a relationship or association.**

(3) Discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of selling or leasing any housing accommodation or commercial property or in furnishing facilities, services or privileges in connection with the ownership, occupancy or use of any housing accommodation or commercial property because of the race, color, **familial status, age,** religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability [or] **of any person,** the use of a guide or support animal because of the

blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals[, of any present or prospective owner, occupant or user of such housing accommodation or commercial property.] **or because of the handicap or disability of an individual with whom the person is known to have a relationship or association.**

(3.1) Refuse to permit, at the expense of a person with a handicap, 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, grant permission for a modification if the renter agrees to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification, with reasonable wear and tear excepted.

(3.2) Refuse 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 housing accommodation.

(4) Discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of any loan of money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of housing accommodation or commercial property because of the race, color, **familial status, age**, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin or handicap or disability of any [present or prospective owner, occupant or user of any housing accommodation or commercial property] **person, the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of guide or support animals or because of the handicap or disability of an individual with whom the person is known to have a relationship or association.**

(5) Print, publish or circulate any statement or advertisement: (i) relating to the sale, lease or acquisition of any housing accommodation or commercial property or the loan of money, whether or not secured by mortgage, or otherwise for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of any housing accommodation or commercial property which indicates any preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based upon race, color, **familial status, age**, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin [or], handicap or disability **or because of the handicap or disability of an individual with whom the person is known to have a relationship or association**, or (ii) relating to the [lease] **sale, lease or acquisition** of any housing accommodation or commercial property which indicates any preference, limitation, specification or discrimination based upon use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals.

(6) Make any inquiry, elicit any information, make or keep any record or use any form of application, containing questions or entries concerning race, color, **familial status, age**, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin [or], handicap or disability **or because of the handicap or disability of an individual with whom the person is known to have a relationship or association** in connection with the sale or lease of any housing accommodation or commercial property or loan of any money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance

of any housing accommodation or commercial property, or to make any inquiry, elicit any information, make or keep any record or use any form of application, containing questions or entries concerning the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, in connection with the lease of any housing accommodation or commercial property.

(7) Construct, operate, offer for sale, lease or rent or otherwise make available housing or commercial property which is not accessible.

(8) Discriminate in real estate-related transactions, as described by and subject to the following:

(i) It shall be unlawful for any person or other entity whose business includes engaging in real estate-related transactions to discriminate against any person in making available such a transaction or in the terms of conditions of such a transaction because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, handicap or disability, use of a guide or support animal because of a physical handicap or because the user is a handler or trainer of guide or support animals or familial status.

(ii) Nothing in this act prohibits a person engaged in the business of furnishing appraisals of real property to take into consideration factors other than race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, handicap or disability, use of a guide or support animal because of a physical handicap or because the user is a handler or trainer of guide or support animals or familial status.

(9) Nothing in this clause, regarding age or familial status, shall apply with respect to housing for older persons.

(10) Nothing in this clause shall bar any religious or denominational institution or organization or any charitable or educational organization which is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization or any bona fide private or fraternal organization from giving preference to persons of the same religion or denomination or to members of such private or fraternal organization or from making such selection as is calculated by such organization to promote the religious principles or the aims, purposes or fraternal principles for which it is established or maintained. Nor shall it apply to the rental of rooms in a landlord occupied rooming house with a common entrance, nor with respect to discrimination based on sex, the rental or leasing of housing accommodations in a single-sex dormitory.

(i) For any person being the owner, lessee, proprietor, manager, superintendent, agent or employe of any [place of] public accommodation, resort or amusement to:

(1) Refuse, withhold from, or deny to any person because of his race, color, sex, religious creed, ancestry, national origin or handicap or disability, or to any person due to use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, either directly or indirectly, any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges of such [place of] public accommodation, resort or amusement.

(2) Publish, circulate, issue, display, post or mail, either directly or indirectly, any written or printed communication, notice or advertisement to the effect that any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of any

such place shall be refused, withheld from or denied to any person on account of race, color, religious creed, sex, ancestry, national origin or handicap or disability, or to any person due to use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user, **or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals,** or that the patronage or custom thereof of any person, belonging to or purporting to be of any particular race, color, religious creed, **sex,** ancestry, national origin or handicap or disability, or to any person due to use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, is unwelcome, objectionable or not acceptable, desired or solicited.

(3) Exclude or otherwise deny equal goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, accommodations or other opportunities to a person because of the handicap or disability of an individual with whom the person is known to have a relationship or association.

(4) Construct, operate or otherwise make available such place of public accommodation, resort or amusement which is not accessible.

[Nothing in clause (h) of this section shall bar any religious or denominational institution or organization or any charitable or educational organization, which is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization or any bona fide private or fraternal organization from giving preference to persons of the same religion or denomination or to members of such private or fraternal organization or from making such selection as is calculated by such organization to promote the religious principles or the aims, purposes or fraternal principles for which it is established or maintained. Nor shall it apply to the rental of rooms or apartments in a landlord occupied rooming house with a common entrance.]

(j) For any person subject to the act to fail to post and exhibit prominently in his place of business any fair practices notice prepared and distributed by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

(k) For any employer to discriminate against an employee or a prospective employee because the employee only has a [general education development certificate] **diploma based on passing a general educational development test** as compared to a high school diploma. However, should vocational technical training or other special training be required with regard to a specific position, then such training or special training may be considered by the employer.

(l) To exclude or otherwise deny equal jobs or benefits to a person because of the handicap or disability of an individual with whom the person is known to have a relationship or association.

This section of the act shall not be construed to prohibit the refusal to hire or the dismissal of a person who is not able to function properly in the job applied for or engaged in.

Section 5.3. Prohibition of Certain Real Estate Practices.--It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person to:

(a) Induce, solicit or attempt to induce or solicit for commercial profit any listing, sale or transaction involving any housing accommodation or commercial property by representing that such housing accommodation or commercial property is within

any neighborhood, community or area adjacent to any other area in which there reside, or do not reside, persons of a particular race, color, **familial status, age**, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or who are guide or support animal dependent.

(b) Discourage, or attempt to discourage, for commercial profit, the purchase or lease of any housing accommodation or commercial property by representing that such housing accommodation or commercial property is within any neighborhood, community or area adjacent to any other area in which there reside, or may in the future reside in increased or decreased numbers, persons of a particular race, color, **familial status, age**, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or who are guide or support animal dependent.

(c) Misrepresent, create or distort a circumstance, condition or incident for the purpose of fostering the impression or belief, on the part of any owner, occupant or prospective owner or occupant of any housing accommodation or commercial property, that such housing accommodation or commercial property is within any neighborhood, community or area adjacent to any other area which would be adversely impacted by the residence, or future increased or decreased residence, of persons of a particular race, color, **familial status, age**, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or who are guide or support animal dependent within such neighborhood, community or area.

(d) In any way misrepresent or otherwise misadvertise within a neighborhood or community, whether or not in writing, that any housing accommodation or commercial property within such neighborhood or community is available for inspection, sale, lease, sublease or other transfer, in any context where such misrepresentation or misadvertising would have the effect of fostering an impression or belief that there has been or will be an increase in real estate activity within such neighborhood or community due to the residence, or anticipated increased or decreased residence, of persons of a particular race, color, **familial status, age**, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user.

Section 6. Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.--(a) There shall be, and there is hereby established in the Governor's Office a non-partisan, departmental administrative commission for the administration of this act, which shall be known as the "Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission," and which is hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

(b) Said Commission shall consist of eleven members, to be known as Commissioners, who shall be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of a majority of the members of the Senate, not more than six of such Commissioners to be from the same political party, and each of whom shall hold office for a term of five years or until his successor shall have been duly appointed and qualified. Vacancies occurring in an office of a member of the Commission by expiration of term, death, resignation, removal or for any other reason shall be filled in the manner aforesaid for the balance of that term. Commission members failing to attend meetings for three consecutive months shall forfeit their seats unless the chairperson of the commission receives written notification from the member involved that the absence was due to personal illness or the death or illness of an immediate family member.

(c) Subject to the provisions of this act, the Commission shall have all the powers and shall perform the duties generally vested in and imposed upon departmental administrative boards and commissions by the act, approved the ninth day of April, one thousand nine hundred twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 177), known as "The Administrative Code of one thousand nine hundred twenty-nine," and its amendments, and shall be subject to all the provisions of such code which apply generally to departmental administrative boards and commissions.

(d) The Governor shall designate one of the members of the Commission to be its [chairman] **chairperson** who shall preside at all meetings of the Commission and perform all the duties and functions of the [chairman] **chairperson** thereof. The Commission may designate one of its members to act as [chairman] **chairperson** during the absence or incapacity of the [chairman] **chairperson** and, when so acting, the member so designated shall have and perform all the powers and duties of the [chairman] **chairperson** of the Commission.

(e) Six members of the Commission or a majority of those duly appointed and qualified shall constitute a quorum for transacting business, and a majority vote of those present at any meeting shall be sufficient for any official action taken by the Commission.

(f) Each member of the Commission shall receive per diem compensation at the rate of sixty dollars (\$60) per day for the time actually devoted to the business of the Commission. Members shall also receive the amount of reasonable traveling, hotel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Commonwealth regulations.

(g) The Commission shall adopt an official seal by which its acts and proceedings shall be authenticated, and of which the courts shall take judicial notice. The certificate of the [chairman] **chairperson** of the Commission, under the seal of the Commission and attested by the secretary, shall be accepted in evidence in any judicial proceeding in any court of this Commonwealth as adequate and sufficient proof of the acts and proceedings of the Commission therein certified to.

Section 5. Section 7 of the act, amended February 28, 1961 (P.L.47, No.19), December 27, 1965 (P.L.1224, No.497), October 11, 1967 (P.L.426, No.191), December 9, 1982 (P.L.1053, No.247) and December 16, 1986 (P.L.1626, No.186) and repealed in part April 28, 1978 (P.L.202, No.53), is amended to read:

Section 7. Powers and Duties of the Commission.--The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To establish and maintain a central office in the City of Harrisburg.

(b) To meet and function at any place within the Commonwealth.

(c) To appoint such attorneys and permanent hearing examiners and other employees and agents as it may deem necessary, fix their compensation within the limitations provided by law, and prescribe their duties. Permanent hearing examiners shall perform no duties inconsistent with their duties and responsibilities as permanent hearing examiners.

(c.1) To conduct mandatory training seminars on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and other applicable Federal and State law, procedures and rules for all investigative personnel.

(c.2) To afford complainants and respondents the opportunity for comments after the final disposition of a complaint. These comments shall be provided to the Commission members.

(c.3) To appoint attorneys to perform the following functions: (1) render legal advice to Commission members on matters appearing before it; or (2) give legal assistance to complainants appearing before the Commission or hearing examiners. These responsibilities shall require a separate staff of attorneys to perform each function.

(d) To adopt, promulgate, amend and rescind rules and regulations to effectuate the policies and provisions of this act.

(e) To formulate policies to effectuate the purposes of this act[,] and make recommendations to agencies and officers of the Commonwealth or political subdivisions of government or board, department, commission or school district thereof to effectuate such policies.

(f) To initiate, receive, investigate and pass upon complaints charging unlawful discriminatory practices.

(f.1) To investigate where no complaint has been filed but with the consent of at least eight of the members of the Commission any problem of racial discrimination with the intent of avoiding and preventing the development of racial tension.

(f.2) On request of the Governor, to investigate claims of excessive use of force by police in civil rights protest activities.

(g) **(1)** To hold hearings, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, administer oaths, take testimony of any person under oath or affirmation and, in connection therewith, to require the production for examination of any books and papers relating to any matter under investigation where a complaint has been properly filed before the Commission. The Commission may make rules as to the issuance of subpoenas by individual Commissioners. In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person any court of jurisdiction, upon application by the Commission, may issue to such person an order requiring such person to appear before the Commission, there to produce documentary evidence, if so ordered, or there to give evidence touching the matter in question, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by said court as a contempt thereof.

(2) No person shall be excused from attending and testifying, or from producing records, correspondence, documents or other evidence in obedience to the subpoena of the Commission or of any individual Commissioner, on the ground that the testimony or evidence required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture, but no person shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which he is compelled, after having claimed his privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, except that such person so testifying shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed in so testifying. The immunity herein provided shall extend only to natural persons so compelled to testify.

(h) To inspect upon request such records of the Commonwealth or any political subdivision, board, department, commission or school district thereof as it may deem necessary or advisable to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

(i) To create such advisory agencies and conciliation councils, local or state-wide, as will aid in effectuating the purposes of this act. The Commission may itself or it may empower these agencies and councils to (1) study the problems of discrimination in all or specific fields of human relationships when based on race, color, **familial status,**

religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin or handicap or disability, and (2) foster, through community effort or otherwise, good will among the groups and elements of the population of the State. Such agencies and councils may make recommendations to the Commission for the development of policies and procedure in general. Advisory agencies and conciliation councils created by the Commission shall be composed of representative citizens, serving without pay, but the Commission may make provision for technical and clerical assistance to such agencies and councils, and for the payment of the expenses of such assistance.

(j) To issue such publications and such results of investigations and research as, in its judgment, will tend to promote good will and minimize or eliminate discrimination because of race, color, **familial status**, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin or handicap or disability.

(k) [From time to time but not less than once a year, to report to the General Assembly and the Governor describing in detail the investigations, proceedings and hearings it has conducted and their outcome, the decisions it has rendered and the other work performed by it, and make recommendations for such further legislation concerning abuses and discrimination because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin or handicap or disability as may be desirable.] **To submit an annual report for each fiscal year by the following March 31 to the General Assembly, the Labor and Industry Committee of the Senate and the State Government Committee of the House of Representatives and the Governor describing in detail the types of complaints received, the investigations, status of cases, Commission action which has been taken, how many were found to have probable cause, how many were resolved by public hearing and the length of time from the initial complaint to final Commission resolution. It shall also contain recommendations for such further legislation concerning abuses and discrimination because of race, color, familial status, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, handicap or disability or the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, as may be desirable.**

(l) To prepare and distribute fair practices notices.

[(m) To submit annually a report to the Labor and Industry Committee of the Senate and the State Government Committee of the House, with a description of the types of complaints received, status of cases, Commission action which has been taken, how many were found to have probable cause, how many were resolved by public hearing and the length of time from the initial complaint to final Commission resolution.]

(n) To notify local human relations commissions of complaints received by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission involving persons within a commission's jurisdiction. **The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission may enter into work-sharing agreements with those local commissions having comparable jurisdiction and enforcement authority.**

(o) To prepare and publish all findings of fact, conclusions of the law, final decisions and orders made after a public hearing by the hearing examiners, Commission panel or full Commission.

(p) To give public access to the commission's compliance manual.

(q) To preserve opinions rendered by the Commission for five years from the date of publication.

Section 6. Section 8 of the act, amended December 16, 1986 (P.L.1626, No.186), is amended to read:

Section 8. Educational Program.--

The Commission, in cooperation with the Department of Education, is authorized to prepare a comprehensive educational program, designed for the students of the schools in this Commonwealth and for all other residents thereof, in order to eliminate prejudice against and to further good will among all persons, without regard to race, **color, familial status,** religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability.

Section 7. Section 9 of the act, amended December 9, 1982 (P.L.1053, No.247) and December 16, 1986 (P.L.1626, No.186), is amended to read:

Section 9. Procedure.--(a) Any person claiming to be aggrieved by an alleged unlawful discriminatory practice may make, sign and file with the Commission a verified complaint, in writing, which shall state the name and address of the person, employer, labor organization or employment agency alleged to have committed the unlawful discriminatory practice complained of, and which shall set forth the particulars thereof and contain such other information as may be required by the Commission. Commission representatives shall not modify the substance of the complaint. The Commission upon its own initiative or the Attorney General may, in like manner, make, sign and file such complaint. Any employer whose employes, or some of them, hinder or threaten to hinder compliance with the provisions of this act may file with the Commission a verified complaint, asking for assistance by conciliation or other remedial action and, during such period of conciliation or other remedial action, no hearings, orders or other actions shall be taken by the Commission against such employer.

(b) (1) After the filing of any complaint, or whenever there is reason to believe that an unlawful discriminatory practice has been committed, the Commission shall make a prompt investigation in connection therewith.

(2) The Commission shall send a copy of the complaint to the named respondent within thirty days from the date of docketing the complaint, **unless otherwise required by the Fair Housing Act.**

(3) A respondent shall file a written, verified answer to the complaint within thirty days of service of the complaint, **unless otherwise required by the Fair Housing Act.** The Commission, upon request of the respondent, may grant an extension of not more than thirty additional days, **unless otherwise required by the Fair Housing Act.**

(4) **After service of the complaint, the Commission shall encourage voluntary and informed predetermination settlements between parties.**

(c) If it shall be determined after such investigation that no probable cause exists for crediting the allegations of the complaint, the Commission shall, within ten days from such determination, cause to be issued and served upon the complainant written notice of such determination, and the said complainant or his attorney may, within ten days after such service, file with the Commission a written request for a preliminary hearing before the Commission to determine probable cause for crediting the allegations of the complaint. If it shall be determined after such investigation that probable cause exists for crediting the allegations of the complaint, the

Commission shall immediately endeavor to eliminate the unlawful discriminatory practice complained of by conference, conciliation and persuasion. The members of the Commission and its staff shall not disclose what has transpired in the course of such endeavors: Provided, That the Commission may publish the facts in the case of any complaint which has been dismissed, and the terms of conciliation when the complaint has been adjusted, without disclosing, **except as required by the Fair Housing Act**, the identity of the parties involved.

(d) In case of failure so to eliminate such practice or in advance thereof, if in the judgment of the Commission circumstances so warrant, the Commission shall cause to be issued and served a written notice, together with a copy of such complaint as the same may have been amended, requiring the person, employer, labor organization or employment agency named in such complaint, hereinafter referred to as respondent, to answer the charges of such complaint at a hearing before the Commission at a time and place to be specified in such notice. The place of any such hearing shall be in the county in which the alleged offense was committed.

(d.1) When notice of hearing is given as set forth in subsection (d) and an election procedure is required by the Fair Housing Act, either party may elect to have the claim asserted in the complaint decided in a civil action brought under the original jurisdiction of Commonwealth Court. The written notice of the Commission shall be sent to all parties and will inform them of their right to take civil action. An election must be made within twenty days after receipt of the notice of hearing. A party making this election shall notify the Commission and all other parties. If an election for civil action is made by either party, the Commission shall, within thirty days from the date of election, commence and maintain a civil action on behalf of the complainant provided, however, that, whenever the Attorney General signs and files the complaint pursuant to subsection (a), the Attorney General shall, within thirty days from the date of election, commence and maintain a civil action on behalf of the complainant. In those cases commenced by the Attorney General, the Commission shall have the right to intervene. In any action brought under this subsection:

(1) All filing fees shall be waived for the Commission and all parties, including the action brought under Commonwealth Court's original jurisdiction and any appeal arising out of such action.

(2) If, after a trial, Commonwealth Court finds that a respondent engaged in or is engaging in any unlawful discriminatory practice as defined in this act, the court may award attorney fees and costs to the complainant on whose behalf the action was commenced.

(3) If, after a trial, Commonwealth Court finds that a respondent has not engaged in or is not engaging in any unlawful discriminatory practice as defined in this act, the court may award attorney fees and costs to the prevailing respondent if the respondent proves that the complaint upon which the civil action was based was brought in bad faith.

(e) The case in support of the complaint shall be presented before the Commission or before a permanent hearing examiner designated by the Commission for the purpose of hearing said complaint by one of its attorneys or agents, by the complainant's attorney or by a designated agent of the complainant. The respondent may [file a written, verified answer

to the complaint and] appear at such hearing in person or otherwise, with or without counsel, and submit testimony. The complainant may likewise appear at such hearing in person or otherwise, with or without counsel, and submit testimony. The Commission or the complainant shall have the power reasonably and fairly to amend any complaint, and the respondent shall have like power to amend his answer. The Commission shall not be bound by the strict rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity. The testimony taken at the hearing shall be under oath and be transcribed.

(f) **(1)** If, upon all the evidence at the hearing, the Commission shall find that a respondent has engaged in or is engaging in any unlawful discriminatory practice as defined in this act, the Commission shall state its findings of fact, and shall issue and cause to be served on such respondent an order requiring such respondent to cease and desist from such unlawful discriminatory practice and to take such affirmative action, including, but not limited to, reimbursement of certifiable travel expenses in matters involving the complaint, [not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50),] compensation for loss of work in matters involving the complaint, [not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200),] hiring, reinstatement or upgrading of employes, with or without back pay, admission or restoration to membership in any respondent labor organization, the making of reasonable accommodations, or selling or leasing specified housing accommodations or commercial property upon such equal terms and conditions and with such equal facilities, services and privileges or lending money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of housing accommodations or commercial property, upon such equal terms and conditions to any person discriminated against or all persons, **and any other verifiable, reasonable out-of-pocket expenses caused by such unlawful discriminatory practice, provided that, in those cases alleging a violation of section 5(d), (e) or (h) or 5.3 where the underlying complaint is a violation of section 5(h) or 5.3, the Commission may award actual damages, including damages caused by humiliation and embarrassment, as, in the judgment of the Commission, will effectuate the purposes of this act, and including a requirement for report of the manner of compliance.**

(2) Such order may also assess a civil penalty against the respondent in a complaint of discrimination filed under sections 5(h) or 5.3:

(i) in an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) if the respondent has not been adjudged to have committed any prior discriminatory practice;

(ii) in an amount not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) if the respondent has been adjudged to have committed one other discriminatory practice during the five-year period ending on the date of this order; or

(iii) in an amount not exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) if the respondent has been adjudged to have committed more than one other discriminatory practice during the seven-year period ending on the date of this order.

If, however, the acts constituting the discriminatory practice that is the object of the charge are committed by the same natural person who has been previously adjudged to have committed acts constituting a discriminatory practice, then the civil penalties set forth in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) may be imposed without regard to the period of time within which any subsequent discriminatory practice occurred.

(3) When the respondent is a licensee of the Commonwealth, the Commission shall inform the appropriate State licensing authority of the order with the request that the licensing authority take such action as it deems appropriate against such licensee. An appeal from the Commission's order shall act as a supersedeas and stay such action by the State licensing authority until a final decision on said appeal.

(4) If, upon all the evidence, the Commission shall find that a respondent has not engaged in any such unlawful discriminatory practice, the Commission shall state its findings of fact, and shall issue and cause to be served on the complainant an order dismissing the said complaint as to such respondent.

(f.1) If, upon all the evidence at the hearing, in those cases alleging a violation of section 5(d), (e), (h) or 5.3 where the underlying complaint is a violation of section 5(h) or 5.3, the Commission finds that a respondent has engaged in or is engaging in any unlawful discriminatory practice as defined in this act, the Commission may award attorney fees and costs to prevailing complainants.

(f.2) If, upon all the evidence at the hearing, in those cases alleging a violation of section 5(d), (e), (h) or 5.3 where the underlying complaint is a violation of section 5(h) or 5.3, the Commission finds that a respondent has not engaged in or is not engaging in any unlawful discriminatory practice as defined in this act, the Commission may award attorney fees and costs to a prevailing respondent if the respondent proves that the complaint was brought in bad faith.

(g) The Commission shall establish rules [or] of practice to govern, expedite and effectuate the foregoing procedure and its own actions thereunder. Three or more members of the Commission or a permanent hearing examiner designated by the Commission shall constitute the Commission for any hearing required to be held by the Commission under this act. The recommended findings, conclusions and order made by said members or permanent hearing examiner shall be reviewed and approved or reversed by the Commission before such order may be served upon the parties to the complaint. The recommended findings, conclusions and order made by said members or permanent hearing examiner shall become a part of the permanent record of the proceeding and shall accompany any order served upon the parties to the complaint.

(h) Any complaint filed pursuant to this section must be so filed within one hundred eighty days after the alleged act of discrimination, **unless otherwise required by the Fair Housing Act.**

(i) Any complaint may be withdrawn at any time by the party filing the complaint.

Section 8. Section 9.1 of the act is repealed.

Section 9. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 9.2. Injunctions.--If the Commission concludes, at any time following the filing of a complaint under this act, that prompt judicial action is necessary to prevent immediate and irreparable harm, the Commission may commence an action in Commonwealth Court or the appropriate court of common pleas, and that court may grant an appropriate preliminary or special injunction pending final disposition of the complaint. Any such order or relief shall be granted in accordance with Rule 1531 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure.

Section 10. Section 12 of the act, amended December 19, 1974 (P.L.966, No.318) and December 16, 1986 (P.L.1626, No.186), is amended to read:

Section 12. Construction and Exclusiveness of Remedy.--

(a) The provisions of this act shall be construed liberally for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof, and any law inconsistent with any provisions hereof shall not apply.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), nothing contained in this act shall be deemed to repeal or supersede any of the provisions of any existing or hereafter adopted municipal ordinance, municipal charter or of any law of this Commonwealth relating to discrimination because of race, color, **familial status**, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin or handicap or disability, but as to acts declared unlawful by section five of this act the procedure herein provided shall, when invoked, be exclusive and the final determination therein shall exclude any other action, civil or criminal, based on the same grievance of the complainant concerned. If the complainant institutes any action based on such grievance without resorting to the procedure provided in this act, such complainant may not subsequently resort to the procedure herein. In the event of a conflict between the interpretation of a provision of this act and the interpretation of a similar provision contained in any municipal ordinance, the interpretation of the provision in this act shall apply to such municipal ordinance.

(c) **(1)** In cases involving a claim of discrimination, if a complainant invokes the procedures set forth in this act, that individual's right of action in the courts of the Commonwealth shall not be foreclosed. If within one (1) year after the filing of a complaint with the Commission, the Commission dismisses the complaint or has not entered into a conciliation agreement to which the complainant is a party, the Commission must so notify the complainant. On receipt of such a notice the complainant shall be able to bring an action in the courts of common pleas of the Commonwealth based on the right to freedom from discrimination granted by this act.

(2) An action under this subsection shall be filed within two years after the date of notice from the Commission closing the complaint. Any complaint so filed shall be served on the Commission at the time the complaint is filed in court. The Commission shall notify the complainant of this requirement.

(3) If the court finds that the respondent has engaged in or is engaging in an unlawful discriminatory practice charged in the complaint, the court shall enjoin the respondent from engaging in such unlawful discriminatory practice and order affirmative action which may include, but is not limited to, reinstatement or hiring of employees, granting of back pay, or any other legal or equitable relief as the court deems appropriate. Back pay liability shall not accrue from a date more than three years prior to the filing of a complaint charging violations of this act.

(4) The court shall serve upon the Commission any final order issued in any action brought under this subsection.

(c.1) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (c) or any other provision of this act, nothing in this act shall be deemed to authorize imposition by the Commission of remedial quota relief in cases involving hiring or promoting of employees of the Commonwealth, its agencies or instrumentalities or employees of local governments and school districts in this Commonwealth. This subsection shall not, however, prohibit the voluntary adoption of an affirmative action plan designed to assure that all persons are accorded equality of opportunity in employment.

(c.2) If, after a trial held pursuant to subsection (c), the court of common pleas finds that a defendant engaged in or is engaging in any unlawful discriminatory practice as defined in this act, the court may award attorney fees and costs to the prevailing plaintiff.

(c.3) If, after a trial held pursuant to subsection (c), the court of common pleas finds that a defendant has not engaged in or is not engaging in any unlawful discriminatory practice as defined in this act, the court may award attorney fees and costs to the prevailing defendant if the defendant proves that the complaint was brought in bad faith.

(d) Nothing in this act shall be construed to require any employer to hire any person with a job-related handicap or disability.

(e) The time limits for filing under any complaint or other pleading under this act shall be subject to waiver, estoppel and equitable tolling.

(f) Nothing in this act shall be constructed as superseding any provision of the act of October 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the "Commonwealth Attorneys Act." All court actions commenced by or against the Commission shall be subject to the provisions of that act.

Section 11. Section 12.2 of the act, added December 19, 1974 (P.L.966, No.318), is amended to read:

Section 12.2. Cooperation of State Agencies.--The Bureau [for the Visually and Physically Handicapped, the Bureau] **of Blindness and Visual Services, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired,** and any other State agency which seeks to aid persons with handicaps or disability shall assist employers, the Commission and the courts of this Commonwealth in the implementation and enforcement of this act by providing expertise in the area of handicaps and disabilities.

Section 12. This act, with respect to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, constitutes the legislation required to reestablish that agency under the act of December 22, 1981 (P.L.508, No.142), known as the Sunset Act.

Section 13. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission shall continue together with its statutory functions and duties until December 31, 2001, when it shall terminate and go out of existence unless reestablished or continued by the General Assembly for an additional ten years. Evaluation and review, termination, reestablishment and continuation of the agency beyond December 31, 2001, and every tenth year thereafter, shall be conducted pursuant to the act of December 22, 1981 (P.L.508, No.142), known as the Sunset Act.

Section 14. The presently confirmed members of the existing Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, as of December 31, 1991, shall continue to serve as members until their present terms of office expire and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Section 15. Each rule and regulation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in effect on December 31, 1991, shall remain in effect until repealed or amended by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Section 16. If enacted after December 31, 1991, this act shall be retroactive to that date.

Section 17. This act shall take effect immediately.

ROBERT P. CASEY