

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2996

By: Ross

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to human rights; amending 25 O.S.

1991, Section 1501, which relates to the powers and duties of the Human Rights Commission; and clarifying language.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 1991, Section 1501, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1501. A. Within the limitations provided by law, the Human Rights Commission has the following additional powers:

1. To promote the creation of local commissions on human rights, and to contract with individuals and state, local and other agencies, both public and private, including agencies of the federal government and of other states;

2. To accept public grants or private gifts, bequests, or other payments;

3. To receive, investigate, seek to conciliate, hold hearings on, and pass upon complaints alleging violations of this act;

4. To furnish technical assistance requested by persons subject to this act to further compliance with the act or an order issued thereunder;

5. To make provisions for technical and clerical assistance to an advisory committee or committees appointed in accordance with subsection (b) of Section 953 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

6. To require answers to interrogatories, under the procedures established by Section ~~3210~~ 3233 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, compel the attendance of witnesses, examine witnesses under oath or affirmation, and require the production of documents in connection with complaints filed under this act, said powers to be exercised only in relation to areas directly and materially related to the complaint. The Commission ~~may make~~ is authorized to promulgate rules ~~authorizing~~ empowering any member or hearing examiner designated by order to pass upon a complaint after a hearing under Section 1503 of this title, and such decision must be approved in writing by a majority of the membership of the Commission;

7. To hear, and issue orders on, complaints involving state government agencies and departments on the same basis as complaints involving private employers; and

8. To provide technical assistance and public information to assist in preventing and eliminating discriminatory housing practices.

B. The Commission shall:

1. ~~at least annually, publish~~ Publish a written report at least annually recommending legislative or other action to carry out the purposes of this act as it relates to housing discrimination;

2. Make studies relating to the nature and extent of discriminatory housing practices in this state; and

3. Cooperate with and, as appropriate, may provide technical and other assistance to federal, state, local, and other public or private entities that are formulating or operating programs to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices.

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MCD