

of any Federal, State, Commonwealth, or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, authority, custom, or usage, performs or is authorized to perform any function, duty, or task in connection with any application, registration, payment of poll tax, or other act requisite to voting in any general, special, or primary election at which votes are cast for candidates for the office of President, Vice President, presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, or Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(Pub. L. 86-449, title III, §306, May 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 88.)

#### CHAPTER 20A—CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Sec.	
1975.	Establishment of Commission.
1975a.	Duties of Commission.
1975b.	Administrative provisions.
1975c.	Authorization of appropriations.
1975d.	Termination.
1975e, 1975f.	Omitted.

#### CODIFICATION

A prior chapter 20A, which provided for the establishment of a Commission on Civil Rights in the executive branch, was comprised of part I (§§101-106) of Pub. L. 85-315, Sept. 9, 1957, 71 Stat. 634, and was omitted from the Code in view of the termination of the Commission 60 days after the submission of the Commission's final report which was due not later than Sept. 30, 1983.

#### § 1975. Establishment of Commission

##### (a) Generally

There is established the United States Commission on Civil Rights (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the "Commission").

##### (b) Membership

The Commission shall be composed of 8 members. Not more than 4 of the members shall at any one time be of the same political party. The initial membership of the Commission shall be the members of the United States Commission on Civil Rights on September 30, 1994. Thereafter vacancies in the membership of the Commission shall continue to be appointed as follows:

(1) 4 members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President.

(2) 2 members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, upon the recommendations of the majority leader and the minority leader, and of the members appointed not more than one shall be appointed from the same political party.

(3) 2 members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon the recommendations of the majority leader and the minority leader, and of the members appointed not more than one shall be appointed from the same political party.

##### (c) Terms

The term of office of each member of the Commission shall be 6 years. The term of each member of the Commission in the initial membership of the Commission shall expire on the date such term would have expired as of September 30, 1994.

##### (d) Chairperson

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the individuals serving as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the United States Commission on Civil Rights on September 30, 1994 shall initially fill those roles on the Commission.

(2) Thereafter the President may, with the concurrence of a majority of the Commission's members, designate a Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, as the case may be, from among the Commission's members.

(3) The President shall, with the concurrence of a majority of the Commission's members, fill a vacancy by designating a Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, as the case may be, from among the Commission's members.

(4) The Vice Chairperson shall act in place of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

##### (e) Removal of members

The President may remove a member of the Commission only for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

##### (f) Quorum

5 members of the Commission constitute a quorum of the Commission.

(Pub. L. 98-183, §2, Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1301; Pub. L. 102-167, §5, Nov. 26, 1991, 105 Stat. 1101; Pub. L. 103-419, §2, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4338.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1975, Pub. L. 85-315, pt. I, §101, Sept. 9, 1957, 71 Stat. 634, related to establishment, membership, etc., of Commission on Civil Rights. See Codification note set out preceding this section.

#### AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-419 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to establishment of United States Commission on Civil Rights for provisions relating to Commission on Civil Rights.

1991—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-167 substituted "Chairperson" for "Chairman" wherever appearing.

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 103-419 provided that: "This Act [amending this section and sections 1975a to 1975d of this title, omitting former sections 1975e and 1975f of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note below] may be cited as the 'Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994'."

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 102-400, §1, Oct. 7, 1992, 106 Stat. 1955, provided that: "This Act [amending section 1975e of this title] may be cited as the 'United States Commission on Civil Rights Authorization Act of 1992'."

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 102-167 provided that: "This Act [amending this section and sections 1975a and 1975c to 1975f of this title] may be cited as the 'United States Commission on Civil Rights Reauthorization Act of 1991'."

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-180, §1, Nov. 28, 1989, 103 Stat. 1325, provided that: "This Act [amending sections 1975e and 1975f of this title] may be cited as the 'Civil Rights Commission Reauthorization Act of 1989'."

#### SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 98-183, as amended by Pub. L. 103-419, §2, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4338, provided that:

“This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983.’”

### § 1975a. Duties of Commission

#### (a) Generally

The Commission—

(1) shall investigate allegations in writing under oath or affirmation relating to deprivations—

(A) because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin; or

(B) as a result of any pattern or practice of fraud;

of the right of citizens of the United States to vote and have votes counted; and

(2) shall—

(A) study and collect information relating to;

(B) make appraisals of the laws and policies of the Federal Government with respect to;

(C) serve as a national clearinghouse for information relating to; and

(D) prepare public service announcements and advertising campaigns to discourage;

discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution of the United States because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

#### (b) Limitations on investigatory duties

Nothing in this chapter or any other Act shall be construed as authorizing the Commission, its advisory committees, or any person under its supervision or control, to inquire into or investigate any membership practices or internal operations of any fraternal organization, any college or university fraternity or sorority, any private club, or any religious organization.

#### (c) Reports

##### (1) Annual report

The Commission shall submit to the President and Congress at least one report annually that monitors Federal civil rights enforcement efforts in the United States.

##### (2) Other reports generally

The Commission shall submit such other reports to the President and the Congress as the Commission, the Congress, or the President shall deem appropriate.

#### (d) Advisory committees

The Commission may constitute such advisory committees as it deems advisable. The Commission shall establish at least one such committee in each State and the District of Columbia composed of citizens of that State or District.

#### (e) Hearings and ancillary matters

##### (1) Power to hold hearings

The Commission, or on the authorization of the Commission, any subcommittee of two or more members of the Commission, at least one of whom shall be of each major political party, may, for the purpose of carrying out this chapter, hold such hearings and act at such times and places as the Commission or such authorized subcommittee deems advisable. Each

member of the Commission shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations in connection with the proceedings of the Commission. The holding of a hearing by the Commission or the appointment of a subcommittee to hold a hearing pursuant to this paragraph must be approved by a majority of the Commission, or by a majority of the members present at a meeting when a quorum is present.

##### (2) Power to issue subpoenas

The Commission may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of written or other matter. Such a subpoena may not require the presence of a witness more than 100 miles outside the place wherein the witness is found or resides or is domiciled or transacts business, or has appointed an agent for receipt of service of process. In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena, the Attorney General may in a Federal court of appropriate jurisdiction obtain an appropriate order to enforce the subpoena.

##### (3) Witness fees

A witness attending any proceeding of the Commission shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid witnesses in the courts of the United States.

##### (4) Depositions and interrogatories

The Commission may use depositions and written interrogatories to obtain information and testimony about matters that are the subject of a Commission hearing or report.

##### (f) Limitation relating to abortion

Nothing in this chapter or any other Act shall be construed as authorizing the Commission, its advisory committees, or any other person under its supervision or control to study and collect, make appraisals of, or serve as a clearinghouse for any information about laws and policies of the Federal Government or any other governmental authority in the United States, with respect to abortion.

(Pub. L. 98-183, §3, Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1302; Pub. L. 102-167, §5, Nov. 26, 1991, 105 Stat. 1101; Pub. L. 103-419, §2, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4339.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1975a, Pub. L. 85-315, pt. I, §102, Sept. 9, 1957, 71 Stat. 634; Pub. L. 88-352, title V, §501, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 249; Pub. L. 91-521, §4, Nov. 25, 1970, 84 Stat. 1357; Pub. L. 92-496, §1, Oct. 14, 1972, 86 Stat. 813, established rules of procedure for Commission. See Codification note set out preceding section 1975 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-419 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to duties of Commission for provisions relating to rules of procedure of Commission hearings.

1991—Subsecs. (a), (d), (f). Pub. L. 102-167 substituted “Chairperson” for “Chairman” wherever appearing.

### § 1975b. Administrative provisions

#### (a) Staff

##### (1) Director

There shall be a full-time staff director for the Commission who shall—