

## CHAPTER VII—COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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| <i>Part</i> |  | <i>Page</i> |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 701         | Organization and functions of the Commission .....   | 269         |
| 702         | Rules on hearings, reports, and meetings of the<br>Commission .....  | 272         |
| 703         | Operations and functions of State Advisory Com-<br>mittees .....   | 281         |
| 704         | Information disclosure and communications .....  | 284         |
| 705         | Materials available pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a .....  | 291         |
| 706         | Employee responsibilities and conduct .....  | 296         |
| 707         | Enforcement of nondiscrimination on the basis of<br>disability in programs or activities conducted by<br>U.S. Commission on Civil Rights ..... | 303         |
| 708         | Collection by salary offset from indebted current<br>and former employees .....  | 309         |



## **PART 701—ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

### **Subpart A—Organizations and Functions**

Sec.

701.1 Establishment.

701.2 Responsibilities.

#### **Subpart B—Organization Statement**

701.10 Membership of the Commission.

701.11 Commission meetings—duties of the Chairperson.

701.12 Staff Director.

701.13 Staff organization and functions.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 1975, 1975a, 1975b.

SOURCE: 67 FR 70482, Nov. 22, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

### **Subpart A—Organizations and Functions**

#### **§ 701.1 Establishment.**

The United States Commission on Civil Rights (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”) is a bipartisan agency of the executive branch of the Government. The predecessor agency to the present Commission was established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, 71 Stat. 634. This Act was amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1960, 74 Stat. 86; the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 241; by 81 Stat. 582 (1967); by 84 Stat. 1356 (1970); by 86 Stat. 813 (1972); and by the Civil Rights Act of 1978, 92 Stat. 1067. The present Commission was established by the United States Commission on Civil Rights Act of 1983, 97 Stat. 1301, as amended by the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994, 108 Stat. 4339. The statutes are codified in 42 U.S.C. 1975 through 1975d. (Hereinafter, the 1994 Act will be referred to as “the Act.”)

#### **§ 701.2 Responsibilities.**

(a) The Commission’s authority under 42 U.S.C. 1975a(a) may be summarized as follows:

(1) To investigate allegations in writing under oath or affirmation that citizens of the United States are being deprived of their right to vote and have that vote counted by reason of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin;

(2) To study and collect information relating to discrimination or a denial

of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin or in the administration of justice;

(3) To appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government relating to discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of, color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin or in the administration of justice;

(4) To serve as a national clearinghouse for information relating to discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin;

(5) To prepare public service announcements and advertising campaigns to discourage discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin.

(b) Under 42 U.S.C. 1975a(c), the Commission is required to submit at least one report annually that monitors Federal civil rights enforcement efforts in the United States and other such reports to the President and to the Congress at such times as the Commission, the Congress, or the President shall deem appropriate.

(c) In fulfilling these responsibilities the Commission is authorized by the Act to hold hearings and to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses; to consult with governors, attorneys general; and other representatives of State and local governments, and private organizations; and is required to establish an advisory committee in each State. The Act also provides that all Federal agencies shall cooperate fully with the Commission so that it may effectively carry out its functions and duties.

### **Subpart B—Organization Statement**

#### **§ 701.10 Membership of the Commission.**

(a) The Commission is composed of eight members (or “Commissioners”), not more than four of whom may be of the same political party. The President shall appoint four members, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall