

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION  
1 ASHBURTON PLACE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108, NOVEMBER 1, 1977.

The Honorable Paul Guzzi, *Secretary of State*  
State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Mr. Guzzi: In accordance with Section 33 of Chapter 30 of the General Laws, enclosed please find the legislative recommendations of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

This proposal includes some five pieces of legislation which we have summarized below.

If further information or data is required of this Commission, we will be pleased to supply the same to you upon request.

Very truly yours,

JANE C. EDMONDS  
*Chairman*

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

**LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**

1. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION TO AWARD ATTORNEY'S FEES TO A PREVAILING PARTY.

This bill would amend General Law Chapter 151 (b) and permit the Commission to award as part of its Orders, attorney's fees, where appropriate, to a successful and prevailing party in a discrimination suit.

2. AN ACT TO PREVENT THE PRACTICE OF DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT AGAINST PERSONS UNDERGOING HEALTH TREATMENT THROUGH PSYCHIATRY OR PRESCRIBED REGULAR USE OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

This bill would amend General Law Chapter 151 (b) by striking Paragraph 9 (1) and substituting a paragraph which would make it unlawful for an employer to bar or discharge from employment a person who has been treated for mental illness of who is undergoing chemical or drug therapy for mental illness if the individual has been declared competent to work by the appropriate physician. The bill further regulates the questions which may be included on applications for employment concerning this area of protection.

3. AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE PROCEDURES AND DAMAGES AVAILABLE IN HOUSING CASES.

This bill would amend General Law Chapter 151 (b) and permit the Commission to award damages for actual and compensatory amounts of money and to delete the \$1,000 limitation presently in the statute.

4. AN ACT REGARDING THE SCHEDULING OF HEARINGS AND ISSUING OF NOTICE OF RIGHT TO SUE.

This bill would parallel the language in Title VII, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and permit the Commission to issue right to sue letters and allow complainants to process their cases in court rather than before the Commission.

5. AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE TIME LIMIT FOR FILING COMPLAINTS WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION.

This bill would permit the Statute of Limitations to be tolled when an individual has filed a Grievance Proceeding for the same cause of action.

The bill would amend the existing law in certain respects, and would also provide for the establishment of a new department in the Department of the Interior, to be known as the Department of Reclamation, and to be under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior. The bill would also provide for the establishment of a new office in the Department of the Interior, to be known as the Office of Reclamation, and to be under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior. The bill would also provide for the establishment of a new office in the Department of the Interior, to be known as the Office of Reclamation, and to be under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior.

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