

SB1508



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB1508

Introduced 2/9/2017, by Sen. Heather A. Steans

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

775 ILCS 5/8-102

from Ch. 68, par. 8-102

Amends the Illinois Human Rights Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the powers and duties of the Human Rights Commission.

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A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning human rights.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Human Rights Act is amended by
5 changing Section 8-102 as follows:

6 (775 ILCS 5/8-102) (from Ch. 68, par. 8-102)

7 Sec. 8-102. Powers and Duties. In addition to ~~the~~ the other
8 powers and duties prescribed in this Act, the Commission shall
9 have the following powers and duties:

10 (A) Meetings. To meet and function at any place within the
11 State.

12 (B) Offices. To establish and maintain offices in
13 Springfield and Chicago.

14 (C) Employees. To select and fix the compensation of such
15 technical advisors and employees as it may deem necessary
16 pursuant to the provisions of "The Personnel Code".

17 (D) Hearing Officers. To select and fix the compensation of
18 hearing officers who shall be attorneys duly licensed to
19 practice law in this State and full time employees of the
20 Commission.

21 A formal and unbiased training program for hearing officers
22 shall be implemented. The training program shall include the
23 following:

1 (1) substantive and procedural aspects of the hearing
2 officer position;

3 (2) current issues in human rights law and practice;

4 (3) lectures by specialists in substantive areas
5 related to human rights matters;

6 (4) orientation to each operational unit of the
7 Department and Commission;

8 (5) observation of experienced hearing officers
9 conducting hearings of cases, combined with the
10 opportunity to discuss evidence presented and rulings
11 made;

12 (6) the use of hypothetical cases requiring the hearing
13 officer to issue judgments as a means to evaluating
14 knowledge and writing ability;

15 (7) writing skills;

16 (8) computer skills, including but not limited to word
17 processing and document management.

18 A formal, unbiased and ongoing professional development
19 program including, but not limited to, the above-noted areas
20 shall be implemented to keep hearing officers informed of
21 recent developments and issues and to assist them in
22 maintaining and enhancing their professional competence.

23 (E) Rules and Regulations. To adopt, promulgate, amend, and
24 rescind rules and regulations not inconsistent with the
25 provisions of this Act pursuant to the Illinois Administrative
26 Procedure Act.

1 (F) Compulsory Process. To issue and authorize requests for
2 enforcement of subpoenas and other compulsory process
3 established by this Act.

4 (G) Decisions. Through a panel of three members designated
5 by the Chairperson on a random basis, to hear and decide by
6 majority vote complaints filed in conformity with this Act and
7 to approve proposed settlements.

8 (H) Rehearings. To order, by a vote of 6 members, rehearing
9 of its decisions by the entire Commission in conformity with
10 this Act.

11 (I) Judicial Enforcement. To authorize requests for
12 judicial enforcement of its orders in conformity with this Act.

13 (J) Opinions. To publish its decisions in timely fashion to
14 assure a consistent source of precedent.

15 (K) Public Grants; Private Gifts. To accept public grants
16 and private gifts as may be authorized.

17 (L) Interpreters. To appoint at the expense of the
18 Commission a qualified sign language interpreter whenever a
19 hearing impaired person is a party or witness at a public
20 hearing.

21 (M) Automated Processing Plan. To prepare an electronic
22 data processing and telecommunications plan jointly with the
23 Department in accordance with Section 7-112.

24 (N) The provisions of this amendatory Act of 1995 amending
25 subsection (G) of this Section apply to causes of action filed
26 on or after January 1, 1996.

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1 (Source: P.A. 91-357, eff. 7-29-99.)