

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 4015

By: Conley

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8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to education; permitting certain  
10 complaints to be filed with the Attorney General's  
Office of Civil Rights Enforcement; authorizing  
11 Office to receive, investigate, hear, and issue  
orders on complaints; allowing Office to initiate  
12 certain periodic compliance reviews; granting broad  
discretion to set parameters for reviews; authorizing  
Office to conduct directed investigation in certain  
13 circumstances; amending 25 O.S. 2021, Section 1501,  
which relates to the powers of the Attorney General's  
14 Office of Civil Rights Enforcement; modifying powers  
of the Office; providing for codification; and  
15 providing an effective date.

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9001 of Title 70, unless there  
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. A complaint of an education civil rights violation or  
24 discrimination may be filed with the Attorney General's Office of

1 Civil Rights Enforcement by anyone who believes that a public school  
2 or institution of higher education in this state has discriminated  
3 against someone on the basis of race, color, national origin,  
4 religion, sex, age, genetic information, or disability.

5 B. The Office shall be authorized to receive, investigate,  
6 hear, and issue orders on, complaints of discrimination or other  
7 education civil rights violations filed pursuant to subsection A of  
8 this section.

9 C. The Office may initiate periodic compliance reviews to  
10 assess the practices of public schools or institutions of higher  
11 education to determine whether they comply with the laws and  
12 regulations enforced by the Office. The Office, under the direction  
13 of the Attorney General, shall have broad discretion to determine  
14 the substantive issues for review and the number and frequency of  
15 the reviews.

16 D. In appropriate circumstances, the Office may conduct a  
17 directed investigation when information indicates a possible failure  
18 to comply with the laws and regulations enforced by the Office, the  
19 matter warrants attention, and the compliance concern is not  
20 otherwise being addressed through the complaint, compliance review,  
21 or technical assistance activities of the Office.

22 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 1501, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

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1 Section 1501. A. Within the limitations provided by law, the  
2 Attorney General's Office of Civil Rights Enforcement has the  
3 following additional powers:

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

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

10 3. To receive, investigate, seek to conciliate, hold hearings  
11 on, and pass upon complaints alleging violations of Section 1101 et  
12 seq. of this title;

13 4. To furnish technical assistance requested by persons subject  
14 to this act to further compliance with Section 1101 et seq. of this  
15 title or an order issued thereunder;

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

19 6. To require answers to interrogatories, under the procedures  
20 established by Section 3233 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
21 compel the attendance of witnesses, examine witnesses under oath or  
22 affirmation, and require the production of documents in connection  
23 with complaints filed under Section 1101 et seq. of this title, said  
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1 powers to be exercised only in relation to areas directly and  
2 materially related to the complaint;

3 7. To hear, and issue orders on, complaints involving state  
4 government agencies and departments, including public schools and  
5 institutions of higher education in accordance with Section 1 of  
6 this act, on the same basis as complaints involving private  
7 employers; ~~and~~

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

11 9. To promulgate rules as necessary to implement the provisions  
12 of Section 1101 et seq. of this title.

13 B. The Attorney General shall:

14 1. At least annually, publish a written report recommending  
15 legislative or other action to carry out the purposes of Section  
16 1101 et seq. of this title as it relates to housing discrimination;

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

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

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SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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