

or affiliation, marital status, physical or mental handicap, race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age shall promptly advise the Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator if the complaint involves discrimination in State employment. With respect to all other complaints of discrimination, it shall advise the Maryland Commission on Human Relations.] ANY STATE AGENCY RECEIVING FROM A STATE EMPLOYEE OR APPLICANT A COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGIOUS OPINION OR AFFILIATION, MARITAL STATUS, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HANDICAP, RACE, COLOR, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, OR AGE SHALL PROMPTLY REFER THE COMPLAINT TO THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS.

- (c) If the Human Relations Commission [receives] CERTIFIES FOR PUBLIC HEARING a complaint of unlawful discrimination by any person licensed by a State agency, it shall notify the licensing agency of the pendency of [any public] THAT hearing [(if the complaint is a formal one) or of the filing of the complaint (if the complaint is an informal one)].

ARTICLE IX - CONDUCT BY THE STATE'S REPRESENTATIVES;

FAIR PRACTICES OFFICER

- (a) State officials and employees shall be ever mindful of the democratic heritage of the State which abhors any discrimination on the basis of political or religious opinion or affiliation, marital status, physical or mental handicap, race, color, creed, sex, age, or national origin, and shall take all necessary steps to effectuate the provisions and intent of this Code of Fair Practices.
- (b) The Secretary or other Chief Executive Officer of each department in the Executive Branch shall appoint an Assistant Secretary or [some] other employee [of his department of equal stature,] OF EQUAL STATURE IN THE DEPARTMENT as Fair Practices Officer. The Fair Practices Officer[, as part of his duties,] shall be charged with the enforcement of this Code, THE DEPARTMENT'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM, and the Affirmative Action Plan adopted pursuant to Article I (c) of this Code AND [within the department, including but not limited to] the development and conduct of plans, programs and policies to establish and promote non-discriminatory employment and personnel policies within the department. The Departmental Fair Practices Officer shall cooperate and coordinate [his] activities with the Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator.