

records, to compare character of work and operations on which persons employed by him are engaged, to question such persons and to obtain such other information as is reasonably necessary to the administration and enforcement of this subtitle.

(e) The Commissioner or his authorized representatives shall have power to examine witnesses under oath, and to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of any documentary evidence relating to the subject-matter of any investigation undertaken pursuant to this subtitle.

(B) The Commissioner is authorized to endeavor to eliminate pay practices unlawful under this subtitle by informal methods of conference, conciliation and persuasion, and to supervise the payment of wages owing to an employee under this subtitle.

(d) (C) The Commissioner shall have the power to issue such administrative regulations consistent with the purpose and provisions of this subtitle as he deems necessary or appropriate for the efficient administration thereof.

55D.

(a) An employer who violates the provisions of this subtitle shall be liable to the employee or employees affected in the amount of the differential between the wage paid male employees and the female employees doing the same type of work, and an additional equal amount as liquidated damages. Action to recover such liability may be maintained in any court of competent jurisdiction by any one or more employees for and in behalf of herself or themselves and other employees similarly situated, and no agreement by any such employee to work for less than the wage to which such employee is entitled under this subtitle shall be a defense to any such action. At the written request of any employee paid less than the wage to which he or she may be entitled under this subtitle the Commissioner may take an assignment of such wage claim in trust for the assigning employee and may bring any legal action necessary to collect such claim, including the liquidated damages provided by this Section. The court in such action shall, in addition to any judgment awarded to the plaintiff or plaintiffs, allow a reasonable attorney's fee to be paid by the defendant, and cost of the action. The Commissioner shall have power to join various claimant against the employer in one cause of action. The Attorney General is hereby authorized to prosecute all civil cases arising under this subtitle which are referred to him by the Commissioner for said purpose.

(b) No action may be brought or any prosecution instituted for any violation of Section 1 of this article unless within one year after the commission of the act complained of.

55E.

Every employer subject to this subtitle shall make, keep, and maintain such records of the wages and wage rates, job classifications, and other terms and conditions of employment of the persons employed by him, and shall preserve such records for such periods of time, and shall make such reports therefrom as the Commissioner shall prescribe.