

in writing, in a form satisfactory to the Commission. After the filing of any complaint, the Commission shall consider the complaint and by ~~majority vote of the entire membership~~ A VOTE OF AT LEAST FIVE MEMBERS may refer it to the Secretary for prompt investigation and ascertainment of the facts; provided, however, that if the complaint shall concern alleged discrimination by the Executive branch of the County Government, such referral shall be to the County Council. The results of this investigation shall be made as written findings. A copy of the findings shall be furnished to the complainant and to the person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, or appropriate branch of the County Government (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), against whom or which the complaint is made. If the finding is that there is probable cause for believing a discriminatory act has been or is being committed within the scope of any of the Public General Law of Maryland or of the Public Local Law of Howard County, the Secretary shall endeavor immediately to eliminate the discrimination by conference, conciliation and persuasion. Any agreement reached shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Respondent, Complainant and the Secretary. If an agreement cannot be reached by conciliation, conference, or persuasion, the Human Rights RELATIONS Commission may by ~~majority vote of its entire membership~~ A VOTE OF AT LEAST FIVE MEMBERS direct the Secretary to cause a complaint to be filed with the appropriate local, state or federal agency ~~or Court~~, seeking action to enjoin or restrain the violation of the complainant's civil rights or other appropriate remedy. The Office of Law shall provide all the necessary legal assistance in filing and prosecuting the complaint. Neither the Commission nor the Secretary nor other employees of the County shall disclose what has transpired during the course of any investigation, nor shall any publicity be given to any negotiations or to the fact that a complaint has been filed, except that this provision shall not apply to disclosures by the Commission to local, state and national commissions, and agencies or governmental departments and State or County Legislative bodies and the members of the Legislature acting in their official capacities.

#### 12.606—Legal Advice.

The County Solicitor shall be legal advisor to the Human Relations Commission, and he or an Assistant County Solicitor shall attend all meetings of the Human Relations Commission.

#### 12.607—Severability.

If any clause, the sentence, part or parts of this title, or of any section thereof shall be held unconstitutional or invalid such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this title or of any section thereof. The County Council hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this title or any section thereof if it had known such clause, sentence, part or parts of any section thereof should be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

*Section 2.* BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That this Act shall take effect sixty (60) days after its enactment.

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on May 13, 1969.