

25.

*Nothing in this subtitle shall prohibit a religious organization, association, or society, or any nonprofit institution or organization operated, supervised, or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious organization, association, or society, from limiting the sale, rental, or occupancy of dwellings which it owns or operates for other than a commercial purpose to persons of the same religion, or from giving preferences to such persons, unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color, or national origin. Nor shall anything in this subtitle apply to a private membership club which is a bona fide club and which is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.*

26.

*It shall be unlawful to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person in the exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of his having exercised or enjoyed, or on account of his having aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected by Sections 22, 23 or 24. This section may be enforced by appropriate civil action.*

27.

*It is the general duty of the Commission to enforce the provisions of this subtitle following and according to the procedures, powers and duties which are vested in the Commission elsewhere in this article. The Commission has the power for the purposes of this subtitle and under the procedures outlined elsewhere in this article to receive complaints, conduct investigations, issue subpoenas, hold hearings and enforce generally the provisions of this subtitle in all respects as if the provisions of this subtitle were included specifically in such other pertinent sections of this article.*

28.

*If at any time after a complaint has been filed, the Commission believes that appropriate civil action to preserve the status quo or to prevent irreparable harm is advisable, the Commission may bring an action necessary to preserve such status quo or to prevent such irreparable harm, including but not limited to an action to obtain a temporary restraining order and for a preliminary injunction. Such action shall be brought in the circuit court of the County or in Baltimore City where is located the dwelling which is the subject of the alleged discrimination.*

29.

*Nothing in this subtitle shall affect the powers of any County, municipality or other local government to enact ordinances on any subject covered by this subtitle; provided that no such ordinance shall permit the doing of any act which would be a discriminatory or unlawful housing practice under this subtitle.*