

(d) (1) Consistent with **ARTICLE 49B, § 13 OF THE CODE**, the Public Information Act, and the Open Meetings Act, the [Office] **COMMISSION SHALL PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIAL CHARACTER OF INFORMATION RELATING TO AN INVESTIGATION AND** may issue protective orders for good cause to limit, or otherwise impose conditions on, access by any person to any document in the possession of a party.

(2) A protective order issued under paragraph (1) of this subsection may include:

(i) a document in the possession of the State or otherwise in the record that is not a public record; and

(ii) information disclosed in accordance with § 19-116 of this subtitle.

(e) The [Office] **COMMISSION** shall exercise reasonable discretion in determining the extent of the investigation required to support [the Commission's] **COMMISSION STAFF'S** initial findings and recommendations.

(f) (1) The [Office] **COMMISSION** may investigate and adjudicate a claim of discrimination under this title only if the claim alleges that:

(i) the discrimination was committed by a business entity within the limitations period set forth in § 19-101(c) of this title; and

(ii) the discrimination occurred in the State.

(2) Discrimination is deemed to have occurred in the State only if:

(i) each party operated a place of business in, or resided in, the State at the time of the discrimination; or

(ii) the discriminatory act was committed in the State.

19-108.

(a) In determining whether to proceed further with an investigation and in making findings, [the Office] **COMMISSION STAFF** may consider any evidence provided by the complainant or the respondent business entity as to the following factors:

(1) whether there was an intent to discriminate on the part of the respondent business firm;