

sions of this subchapter. Regulations issued under this section shall be in conformity with the standards and limitations of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5.

(b) In any action or proceeding based on any alleged unlawful employment practice, no person shall be subject to any liability or punishment for or on account of (1) the commission by such person of an unlawful employment practice if he pleads and proves that the act or omission complained of was in good faith, in conformity with, and in reliance on any written interpretation or opinion of the Commission, or (2) the failure of such person to publish and file any information required by any provision of this subchapter if he pleads and proves that he failed to publish and file such information in good faith, in conformity with the instructions of the Commission issued under this subchapter regarding the filing of such information. Such a defense, if established, shall be a bar to the action or proceeding, notwithstanding that (A) after such act or omission, such interpretation or opinion is modified or rescinded or is determined by judicial authority to be invalid or of no legal effect, or (B) after publishing or filing the description and annual reports, such publication or filing is determined by judicial authority not to be in conformity with the requirements of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 88-352, title VII, §713, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 265.)

#### CODIFICATION

In subsec. (a), “subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5” substituted for “the Administrative Procedure Act” on authority of Pub. L. 89-554, §7(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 631, the first section of which enacted Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

#### EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION GUIDELINES ON RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT

Pub. L. 112-55, div. B, title V, §506, Nov. 18, 2011, 125 Stat. 631, provided that: “During the current fiscal year and in each fiscal year thereafter, none of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce any guidelines of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission covering harassment based on religion, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which such funds are made available that such guidelines do not differ in any respect from the proposed guidelines published by the Commission on October 1, 1993 (58 Fed. Reg. 51266).”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 111-117, div. B, title V, §506, Dec. 16, 2009, 123 Stat. 3150.

Pub. L. 111-8, div. B, title V, §506, Mar. 11, 2009, 123 Stat. 595.

Pub. L. 103-317, title VI, §610, Aug. 26, 1994, 108 Stat. 1774, provided that:

“(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

“(1) the liberties protected by our Constitution include religious liberty protected by the first amendment;

“(2) citizens of the United States profess the beliefs of almost every conceivable religion;

“(3) Congress has historically protected religious expression even from governmental action not intended to be hostile to religion;

“(4) the Supreme Court has written that ‘the free exercise of religion means, first and foremost, the right to believe and profess whatever religious doctrine one desires’;

“(5) the Supreme Court has firmly settled that under our Constitution the public expression of ideas

may not be prohibited merely because the content of the ideas is offensive to some;

“(6) Congress enacted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 [42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.] to restate and make clear again our intent and position that religious liberty is and should forever be granted protection from unwarranted and unjustified government intrusions and burdens;

“(7) the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has written proposed guidelines to title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.], published in the Federal Register on October 1, 1993, that expand the definition of religious harassment beyond established legal standards set forth by the Supreme Court, and that may result in the infringement of religious liberty;

“(8) such guidelines do not appropriately resolve issues related to religious liberty and religious expression in the workplace;

“(9) properly drawn guidelines for the determination of religious harassment should provide appropriate guidance to employers and employees and assist in the continued preservation of religious liberty as guaranteed by the first amendment;

“(10) the Commission states in its proposed guidelines that it retains wholly separate guidelines for the determination of sexual harassment because the Commission believes that sexual harassment raises issues about human interaction that are to some extent unique; and

“(11) the subject of religious harassment also raises issues about human interaction that are to some extent unique in comparison to other harassment.

“(b) CATEGORY OF RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT IN PROPOSED GUIDELINES.—For purposes of issuing final regulations under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.] in connection with the proposed guidelines published by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on October 1, 1993 (58 Fed. Reg. 51266), the Chairperson of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall ensure that—

“(1) the category of religion shall be withdrawn from the proposed guidelines at this time;

“(2) any new guidelines for the determination of religious harassment shall be drafted so as to make explicitly clear that symbols or expressions of religious belief consistent with the first amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 [42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.] are not to be restricted and do not constitute proof of harassment;

“(3) the Commission shall hold public hearings on such new proposed guidelines; and

“(4) the Commission shall receive additional public comment before issuing similar new regulations.”

#### § 2000e-13. Application to personnel of Commission of sections 111 and 1114 of title 18; punishment for violation of section 1114 of title 18

The provisions of sections 111 and 1114, title 18, shall apply to officers, agents, and employees of the Commission in the performance of their official duties. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 111 and 1114 of title 18, whoever in violation of the provisions of section 1114 of such title kills a person while engaged in or on account of the performance of his official functions under this Act shall be punished by imprisonment for any term of years or for life.

(Pub. L. 88-352, title VII, §714, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 265; Pub. L. 92-261, §8(g), Mar. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 110.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, means Pub. L. 88-352, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 241, as amended, known as the

Civil Rights Act of 1964, which is classified principally to subchapters II to IX of this chapter (§ 2000a et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2000a of this title and Tables.

#### AMENDMENTS

1972—Pub. L. 92-261 inserted provisions which made section 1114 of title 18 applicable to officers, etc., of the Commission and set forth punishment for violation of such section 1114.

#### **§ 2000e-14. Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinating Council; establishment; composition; duties; report to President and Congress**

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall have the responsibility for developing and implementing agreements, policies and practices designed to maximize effort, promote efficiency, and eliminate conflict, competition, duplication and inconsistency among the operations, functions and jurisdictions of the various departments, agencies and branches of the Federal Government responsible for the implementation and enforcement of equal employment opportunity legislation, orders, and policies. On or before October 1 of each year, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall transmit to the President and to the Congress a report of its activities, together with such recommendations for legislative or administrative changes as it concludes are desirable to further promote the purposes of this section.

(Pub. L. 88-352, title VII, § 715, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 265; Pub. L. 92-261, § 10, Mar. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 111; Pub. L. 94-273, § 3(24), Apr. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 377; 1978 Reorg. Plan No. 1, § 6, eff. July 1, 1978, 43 F.R. 19807, 92 Stat. 3781.)

#### CODIFICATION

The first sentence of this section, which read “There shall be established an Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinating Council (hereinafter referred to in this section as the Council) composed of the Secretary of Labor, the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission, and the Chairman of the United States Civil Rights Commission, or their respective delegates” was omitted pursuant to Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1978, § 6, 43 F.R. 19807, 92 Stat. 3781, set out as a note under section 2000e-4 of this title, which abolished the Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinating Council, effective July 1, 1978, as provided by section 1-101 of Ex. Ord. No. 12067, June 30, 1978, 43 F.R. 28967, set out as a note under section 2000e of this title. See Transfer of Functions note below.

#### AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-273 substituted “October” for “July”.

1972—Pub. L. 92-261 substituted provisions which established the Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinating Council and set forth the composition, powers, and duties of the Council for provisions which directed the Secretary of Labor to make a report to the Congress not later than June 30, 1965 concerning discrimination in employment because of age.

#### TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For termination, effective May 15, 2000, of provisions in this section relating to transmittal of a report and recommendations to Congress, see section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section

1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and item 19 on page 165 of House Document No. 103-7.

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

“Equal Employment Opportunity Commission” substituted in text for “Council”, meaning Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinating Council, pursuant to Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1978, § 6, 43 F.R. 19807, 92 Stat. 3781, set out as a note under section 2000e-4 of this title, which abolished Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinating Council and transferred its functions to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, effective July 1, 1978, as provided by section 1-101 of Ex. Ord. No. 12067, June 30, 1978, 43 F.R. 28967, set out as a note under section 2000e of this title.

#### SUBMISSION OF SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS BY JANUARY 1, 1967, TO IMPLEMENT REPORT ON AGE DISCRIMINATION

Pub. L. 89-601, title VI, § 606, Sept. 23, 1966, 80 Stat. 845, directed the Secretary of Labor to submit to the Congress not later than Jan. 1, 1967 his specific legislative recommendations for implementing the conclusions and recommendations contained in his report on age discrimination in employment made pursuant to provisions of this section prior to its amendment in 1972.

#### **§ 2000e-15. Presidential conferences; acquaintance of leadership with provisions for employment rights and obligations; plans for fair administration; membership**

The President shall, as soon as feasible after July 2, 1964, convene one or more conferences for the purpose of enabling the leaders of groups whose members will be affected by this subchapter to become familiar with the rights afforded and obligations imposed by its provisions, and for the purpose of making plans which will result in the fair and effective administration of this subchapter when all of its provisions become effective. The President shall invite the participation in such conference or conferences of (1) the members of the President’s Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, (2) the members of the Commission on Civil Rights, (3) representatives of State and local agencies engaged in furthering equal employment opportunity, (4) representatives of private agencies engaged in furthering equal employment opportunity, and (5) representatives of employers, labor organizations, and employment agencies who will be subject to this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 88-352, title VII, § 716(c), July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 266.)

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11197

Ex. Ord. No. 11197, eff. Feb. 5, 1965, 30 F.R. 1721, which established the President’s Council on Equal Opportunity, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 11247, eff. Sept. 24, 1965, 30 F.R. 12327, formerly set out as a note under section 2000d-1 of this title.

#### **§ 2000e-16. Employment by Federal Government**

##### **(a) Discriminatory practices prohibited; employees or applicants for employment subject to coverage**

All personnel actions affecting employees or applicants for employment (except with regard to aliens employed outside the limits of the United States) in military departments as defined in section 102 of title 5, in executive agencies as defined in section 105 of title 5 (including