

## CHAPTER 363

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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#### 363.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of this chapter, the words defined in this section have the meanings ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1965 c 586 s 6]

Subd. 3. **Board.** "Board" means the state board of human rights.

Subd. 4. **Employment agency.** "Employment agency" means a person or persons who, or an agency which regularly undertakes, with or without compensation, to procure employees or opportunities for employment.

Subd. 5. **Labor organization.** "Labor organization" means any organization that exists wholly or partly for one or more of the following purposes:

- (1) Collective bargaining;
- (2) Dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment; or
- (3) Mutual aid or protection of employees.

Subd. 6. **National origin.** "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of his lineal ancestors.

Subd. 7. **Person.** "Person" includes partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, trustee in bankruptcy, receiver, and the state and its departments, agencies, and political subdivisions.

Subd. 8. **Respondent.** "Respondent" means a person against whom a complaint has been filed or issued.

Subd. 9. **Unfair discriminatory practices.** "Unfair discriminatory practice" means any act described in section 363.03.

Subd. 10. **Discriminate.** The term "discriminate" includes segregate or separate and, for purposes of discrimination based on sex, it includes sexual harassment.

Subd. 10a. **Sexual harassment.** "Sexual harassment" includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical contact or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

- (1) submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment, public accommodations or public services, education, or housing;
- (2) submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment, public accommodations or public services, education, or housing; or

(3) that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment, public accommodations or public services, education, or housing, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment, public accommodations, public services, educational, or housing environment; and in the case of employment, the employer knows or should know of the existence of the harassment and fails to take timely and appropriate action.

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1967 c 897 s 29]

Subd. 12. **Real property.** "Real property" includes real estate, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, corporeal and incorporeal.

Subd. 13. **Real estate broker or salesman.** "Real estate broker or salesman" means, respectively, a real estate broker as defined by section 82.17, subdivision 4, and a real estate salesman as defined by section 82.17, subdivision 5.

Subd. 14. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human rights.

Subd. 15. **Employer.** "Employer" means a person who has one or more employees.

Subd. 16. **Party in interest.** "Party in interest" means the complainant, respondent, commissioner or board member.

Subd. 17. **Hearing examiners.** "Hearing examiners" are persons admitted to practice law who are selected by the commissioner to conduct hearings.

Subd. 18. **Public accommodations.** "Place of public accommodation" means a business, accommodation, refreshment, entertainment, recreation, or transportation facility of any kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the public.

Subd. 19. **Public services.** "Public service" means any public facility, department, agency, board or commission, owned, operated or managed by or on behalf of the state of Minnesota, or any subdivision thereof, including any county, city, town, township, or independent district in the state.

Subd. 20. **Educational institutions.** "Educational institution" means a public or private institution and includes an academy, college, elementary or secondary school, extension course, kindergarten, nursery, school system and a business, nursing, professional, secretarial, technical, vocational school; and includes an agent of an educational institution.

Subd. 21. **Religious or denominational educational institutions.** "Religious or denominational educational institution" means an educational institution which is operated, supervised, controlled or sustained primarily by a religious or denominational organization, or is one which is stated by the parent church body to be and is, in fact, officially related to that church by being represented on the board of the institution, and by providing substantial financial assistance and which has certified, in writing, to the board that it is a religious or denominational educational institution.

Subd. 22. **Charging party.** "Charging party" means a person filing a charge with the commissioner or his designated agent pursuant to section 363.06, subdivision 1.

Subd. 23. **Complainant.** "Complainant" means the commissioner of human rights after he has issued a complaint pursuant to section 363.06.

Subd. 24. **Local commission.** "Local commission" means an agency of a city created pursuant to law, city charter, or municipal ordinance for the purpose of dealing with discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, or familial status.

Subd. 25. **Disability.** "Disability" means a mental or physical condition which constitutes a handicap.

Subd. 26. **Department.** "Department" means the department of human rights.

Subd. 27. **Status with regard to public assistance.** "Status with regard to public assistance" means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.

Subd. 28. **Age.** "Age" insofar as it refers to any prohibited unfair employment or education practice shall be deemed to protect only those individuals over the age of majority except for section 363.03, subdivision 5 which shall be deemed to protect any individual over the age of 25 years.

Subd. 29. **Sex.** "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.

Subd. 30. **Elderly person.** "Elderly person" means a person who is at least 55 years of age.

Subd. 31. **Familial status.** "Familial status" means the condition of one or more minors being domiciled with (a) their parent or parents or the minor's legal guardian or (b) the designee of the parent or parents or guardian with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian.

Subd. 32. **Cooperative apartment corporation.** "Cooperative apartment corporation" means a corporation or association organized under sections 308.05 to 308.18 or chapter 317, the shareholders or members of which are entitled, solely by reason of their ownership of stock or membership certificates in the corporation or association, to occupy one or more residential units in a building owned or leased by the corporation or association.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 3; 1961 c 428 s 1-3; 1967 c 897 s 1-9; 1969 c 975 s 1,2; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 729 s 1; 1976 c 2 s 130; 1977 c 351 s 1; 1977 c 408 s 1; 1980 c 531 s 1,2; 1982 c 492 s 1; 1982 c 619 s 2,3

### 363.02 EXEMPTIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Employment.** The provisions of section 363.03, subdivision 1, shall not apply to:

- (1) The employment of any individual
  - (a) by his parent, grandparent, spouse, child, or grandchild, or
  - (b) in the domestic service of any person;
- (2) A religious or fraternal corporation, association, or society, with respect to qualifications based on religion, when religion shall be a bona fide occupational qualification for employment;
- (3) The employment of one person in place of another, standing by itself, shall not be evidence of an unfair discriminatory practice;
- (4) An age restriction applied uniformly and without exception to all individuals established by a bona fide apprenticeship program established pursuant to chapter 178, which limits participation to persons who enter the program prior to some specified age and the trade involved in the program predominantly involves heavy physical labor or work on high structures. Neither shall the operation of a bona fide seniority system which mandates differences in such things as wages, hiring priorities, lay-off priorities, vacation credit, and job assignments based on seniority, be a violation of the age discrimination provisions of section 363.03, subdivision 1, so long as the operation of such system is not a subterfuge to evade the provisions of chapter 363;

(5) With respect to age discrimination, a practice whereby a labor organization or employer offers or supplies varying insurance benefits or other fringe benefits to members or employees of differing ages, so long as the cost to the labor organization or employer for such benefits is reasonably equivalent for all members or employees;

(6) A restriction imposed by state statute, home rule charter, ordinance, or civil service rule, and applied uniformly and without exception to all individuals, which establishes a maximum age for entry into employment as a peace officer or firefighter.

(7) Nothing in this chapter concerning age discrimination shall be construed to validate or permit age requirements which have a disproportionate impact on persons of any class otherwise protected by section 363.03, subdivision 1 or 5.

It is not an unfair employment practice for an employer, employment agency or labor organization:

(i) to require a person to undergo physical examination for purpose of determining the person's capability to perform available employment; or

(ii) to conduct an investigation as to the person's medical history for the purpose of determining the person's capability to perform available employment; or

(iii) to limit receipt of benefits payable under a fringe benefit plan for disabilities to that period of time which a licensed physician reasonably determines a person is unable to work; or

(iv) to provide special safety considerations for pregnant women involved in tasks which are potentially hazardous to the health of the unborn child, as determined by medical criteria.

**Subd. 2. Housing.** (1) The provisions of section 363.03, subdivision 2, shall not apply to:

(a) rooms in a temporary or permanent residence home run by a nonprofit organization, if the discrimination is by sex; or

(b) the rental by an owner or occupier of a one-family accommodation in which he resides of a room or rooms in the accommodation to another person or persons if the discrimination is by sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or disability. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any person or group of persons selling, renting or leasing property to modify the property in any way, or exercise a higher degree of care for a person having a disability than for a person who does not have a disability; nor shall this chapter be construed to relieve any person or persons of any obligations generally imposed on all persons regardless of any disability in a written lease, rental agreement, or contract of purchase or sale, or to forbid distinctions based on the inability to fulfill the terms and conditions, including financial obligations of the lease, agreement or contract.

(2) The provisions of section 363.03, subdivision 2, prohibiting discrimination because of familial status shall not be construed to defeat the applicability of any local, state or federal restrictions regarding the maximum number of occupants permitted to occupy a dwelling unit and shall not apply to:

(a) any unoccupied dwelling unit in one building of a housing complex consisting of two buildings or, in a housing complex consisting of three or more buildings, any unoccupied dwelling unit in up to one-third of all buildings in the housing complex. For the purposes of this clause, "housing complex" means a group of buildings each containing five or more units on a contiguous parcel of land owned by the same person; a building shall not be exempt from section 363.03, subdivision 2, pursuant to this clause unless the owner has filed an election to designate the building as exempt with the commissioner; an election made by

an owner pursuant to this clause may not be withdrawn for purposes of designating another building in the housing complex as exempt for a period of one year from the filing of the election; or

(b) any unit in a condominium created prior to April 12, 1980, any unit in a condominium, other than a condominium converted from a residential building, created on or after April 12, 1980, and any unit in an adults-only condominium created from an existing adults-only rental building on or after April 12, 1980; or

(c) an unoccupied dwelling unit in any building in which at least a majority of the dwelling units are occupied by elderly persons or are unoccupied and available for occupancy solely by households of which at least one member is an elderly person; or

(d) any owner occupied building containing four or fewer dwelling units; or

(e) an unoccupied dwelling unit in any building which is the subject of a valid certificate filed with the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of this clause. To be valid, a certificate must be on a form provided by the commissioner, be received by the commissioner, state that on the date that the certificate is received by the commissioner at least a majority of the dwelling units in the building are occupied by elderly persons or are unoccupied and available for occupancy solely by households of which at least one member is an elderly person, state that on the date that the certificate is received by the commissioner there is on file with the owner of the building or a specified duly authorized agent of the owner for each occupied unit relied upon in support of the certificate a signed statement by an elderly person occupying the unit on the date that the certificate is received by the commissioner that the person is an elderly person, state that for a period of 180 days following the receipt of the certificate by the commissioner the owner or duly authorized agent will preserve the signed statements of the elderly persons and will, upon request, make the statements available for inspection by the commissioner or by any local commission having jurisdiction over the building, be signed by the owner or the duly authorized agent, and be in all respects true and accurate. A valid certificate shall remain valid for a period of 180 days following the date on which it is received by the commissioner. Any owner or authorized agent who files a certificate containing statements or information that the owner or authorized agent knows or should reasonably know to be false shall be guilty of a misdemeanor;

(f) any unoccupied dwelling unit of up to one-third of the units in a building that is not part of a multi-building complex; or

(g) any dwelling unit in a building owned by a cooperative apartment corporation, other than a building converted from a residential rental building to a cooperative apartment corporation building on or after April 12, 1980, unless that conversion was from an existing adults-only residential rental building.

**Subd. 2a. Manufactured home parks.** The provisions of subdivision 2, prohibiting discrimination because of familial status:

(1) do not apply to a manufactured home park the majority of whose lots are reserved by park rule to households containing at least one elderly person; and

(2) do not apply to a section or sections of a manufactured home park which are identified by park rule and do not comprise more than one-third of the lots in the park. This subdivision does not allow a park owner to avoid complying with section 327C.02, subdivision 2, 327C.05 or 327C.07, subdivision 4 when adopting or amending a rule concerning the permitted familial status of residents or of buyers of homes offered for in park sale.

**Subd. 3. Education.** (a) It is not an unfair discriminatory practice for a religious or denominational institution to limit admission or give preference to applicants of the same religion. The provisions of section 363.03, subdivision 5,

relating to sex, shall not apply to a private educational institution, or branch or level of a private educational institution, in which students of only one sex are permitted to enroll. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any educational institution to provide any special service to any person because of the disability of such person or to modify in any manner its buildings, grounds, facilities, or admission procedures because of the disability of any such person. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit an educational institution from discriminating on the basis of academic qualifications or achievements or requiring from applicants information which relates to academic qualifications or achievements.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter or any law to the contrary, it is not an unfair discriminatory practice for an educational institution or a public service to operate or sponsor separate athletic teams and activities for members of each sex or to restrict membership on an athletic team to participants of one sex, if this separation or restriction meets the requirements of section 126.21.

(c) The department of human rights shall investigate all charges alleging sex discrimination in athletic programs in educational institutions and public services pursuant to the standards and requirements of section 126.21 and the procedures enumerated in this chapter.

**Subd. 4. Public accommodations.** The provisions of section 363.03, subdivision 3, relating to sex, shall not apply to such facilities as restrooms, locker rooms, and other similar places.

**Subd. 5. Disability.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit any program, service, facility or privilege afforded to a person with a disability which is intended to habilitate, rehabilitate or accommodate that person. It is a defense to a complaint or action brought under this chapter that the person bringing the complaint or action suffers from a disability which in the circumstances poses a serious threat to the health or safety of the disabled person or others. The burden of proving this defense is upon the respondent.

**Subd. 6. Age.** By law or published retirement policy, a mandatory retirement age may be established without being a violation of this chapter if it is established consistent with section 181.81. Nothing in this chapter nor in section 181.81 shall prohibit employee pension and retirement plans from granting pension credit to employees over the age of 65 at a lesser rate than is granted to other employees, provided that in no event may an employee's accumulated pension credits be reduced by continued employment, and further provided that no other state or federal law is violated by the reduced rate of pension credit accrual. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the establishment of differential privileges, benefits, services or facilities for persons of designated ages if (a) such differential treatment is provided pursuant to statute, or (b) the designated age is greater than 59 years or less than 21 years.

**Subd. 7. Summer youth employment program.** The provisions of section 363.03, subdivision 1, with regard to age shall not apply to the state summer youth employment program administered by the commissioner of economic security.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 4; 1961 c 428 s 4; 1965 c 584 s 1; 1967 c 897 s 10,11; 1973 c 729 s 2; 1975 c 206 s 1; 1977 c 351 s 2-4; 1977 c 408 s 2; 1977 c 430 s 25 subd 1; 1978 c 649 s 4; 1980 c 355 s 3; 1980 c 509 s 143; 1980 c 531 s 3; 1982 c 492 s 2; 1982 c 526 art 2 s 16

### 363.03 UNFAIR DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES.

**Subdivision 1. Employment.** Except when based on a bona fide occupational qualification, it is an unfair employment practice:

(1) For a labor organization, because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or age,

(a) to deny full and equal membership rights to a person seeking membership or to a member;

(b) to expel a member from membership;

(c) to discriminate against a person seeking membership or a member with respect to his hire, apprenticeship, tenure, compensation, terms, upgrading, conditions, facilities, or privileges of employment; or

(d) to fail to classify properly, or refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against a person or member.

(2) For an employer, because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, or age,

(a) to refuse to hire or to maintain a system of employment which unreasonably excludes a person seeking employment; or

(b) to discharge an employee; or

(c) to discriminate against a person with respect to his hire, tenure, compensation, terms, upgrading, conditions, facilities, or privileges of employment.

(3) For an employment agency, because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or age,

(a) to refuse or fail to accept, register, classify properly, or refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against a person; or

(b) to comply with a request from an employer for referral of applicants for employment if the request indicates directly or indirectly that the employer fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter.

(4) For an employer, employment agency, or labor organization, before a person is employed by an employer or admitted to membership in a labor organization, to

(a) require the person to furnish information that pertains to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or disability, unless, for the purpose of national security, information pertaining to national origin is required by the United States, this state or a political subdivision or agency of the United States or this state, or for the purpose of compliance with the public contracts act or any rule, regulation or laws of the United States or of this state requiring information pertaining to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or disability is required by the United States or a political subdivision or agency of the United States; or

(b) cause to be printed or published a notice or advertisement that relates to employment or membership and discloses a preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability or age.

(5) For an employer, an employment agency or a labor organization, with respect to all employment related purposes, including receipt of benefits under fringe benefit programs, not to treat women affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth, the same as other persons who are not so affected but who are similar in their ability or inability to work.

**Subd. 2. Real property.** It is an unfair discriminatory practice:

(1) For an owner, lessee, sublessee, assignee, or managing agent of, or other person having the right to sell, rent or lease any real property, or any agent of any of these:

(a) to refuse to sell, rent, or lease or otherwise deny to or withhold from any person or group of persons any real property because of race, color, creed, religion,

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national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status; or

(b) to discriminate against any person or group of persons because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status in the terms, conditions or privileges of the sale, rental or lease of any real property or in the furnishing of facilities or services in connection therewith, except that nothing in this clause shall be construed to prohibit the adoption of reasonable rules and regulations intended to protect the safety of minors in their use of the real property or any facilities or services furnished in connection therewith; or

(c) in any transaction involving real property, to print, circulate or post or cause to be printed, circulated, or posted any advertisement or sign, or use any form of application for the purchase, rental or lease of real property, or make any record or inquiry in connection with the prospective purchase, rental, or lease of real property which expresses, directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification, or discrimination as to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status, or any intent to make any such limitation, specification, or discrimination except that nothing in this clause shall be construed to prohibit the advertisement of a dwelling unit as available to adults-only if the person placing the advertisement reasonably believes that the provisions of this subdivision prohibiting discrimination because of familial status do not apply to the dwelling unit.

(2) For a real estate broker, real estate salesperson, or employee, or agent thereof:

(a) to refuse to sell, rent, or lease or to offer for sale, rental, or lease any real property to any person or group of persons or to negotiate for the sale, rental, or lease of any real property to any person or group of persons because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status or represent that real property is not available for inspection, sale, rental, or lease when in fact it is so available, or otherwise deny or withhold any real property or any facilities of real property to or from any person or group of persons because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status; or

(b) to discriminate against any person because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status in the terms, conditions or privileges of the sale, rental or lease of real property or in the furnishing of facilities or services in connection therewith; or

(c) to print, circulate, or post or cause to be printed, circulated, or posted any advertisement or sign, or use any form of application for the purchase, rental, or lease of any real property or make any record or inquiry in connection with the prospective purchase, rental or lease of any real property, which expresses directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification or discrimination as to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status or any intent to make any such limitation, specification or discrimination except that nothing in this clause shall be construed to prohibit the advertisement of a dwelling unit as available to adults-only if the person placing the advertisement reasonably believes that the provisions of this subdivision prohibiting discrimination because of familial status do not apply to the dwelling unit.

(3) For a person, bank, banking organization, mortgage company, insurance company, or other financial institution or lender to whom application is made for financial assistance for the purchase, lease, acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of any real property or any agent or employee thereof:

(a) to discriminate against any person or group of persons because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status of the person or group of persons or of the prospective occupants or tenants of the real property in the granting, withholding, extending, modifying or renewing, or in the rates, terms, conditions, or privileges of the financial assistance or in the extension of services in connection therewith; or

(b) to use any form of application for the financial assistance or make any record or inquiry in connection with applications for the financial assistance which expresses, directly or indirectly, any limitation, specification, or discrimination as to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, or familial status or any intent to make any such limitation, specification, or discrimination; or

(c) to discriminate against any person or group of persons who desire to purchase, lease, acquire, construct, rehabilitate, repair or maintain real property in a specific urban or rural area or any part thereof solely because of the social, economic or environmental conditions of the area in the granting, withholding, extending, modifying, or renewing, or in the rates, terms, conditions, or privileges of the financial assistance or in the extension of services in connection therewith.

(4) For any real estate broker or real estate salesperson, for the purpose of inducing a real property transaction from which the person, his firm, or any of its members may benefit financially, to represent that a change has occurred or will or may occur in the composition with respect to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, or disability of the owners or occupants in the block, neighborhood, or area in which the real property is located, and to represent, directly or indirectly, that this change will or may result in undesirable consequences in the block, neighborhood, or area in which the real property is located, including but not limited to the lowering of property values, an increase in criminal or antisocial behavior, or a decline in the quality of schools or other public facilities.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, ordinance, or home rule charter to the contrary, no person shall be deemed to have committed an unfair discriminatory practice based upon age if the unfair discriminatory practice alleged is attempted or accomplished for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining one of the exemptions provided for a dwelling unit provided for in section 363.02, subdivision 2.

**Subd. 3. Public accommodations.** It is an unfair discriminatory practice:

To deny any person the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of a place of public accommodation because of race, color, creed, religion, disability, national origin or sex. It is an unfair discriminatory practice for a taxicab company to discriminate in the access to, full utilization of or benefit from service because of a person's disability.

**Subd. 4. Public services.** It is an unfair discriminatory practice:

To discriminate against any person in the access to, admission to, full utilization of or benefit from any public service because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, disability, sex or status with regard to public assistance.

**Subd. 4a. Standard of care for disabled.** Nothing in subdivisions 3 and 4 shall be construed to require any person to modify property in any way, or exercise a higher degree of care for a person having a disability.

**Subd. 5. Educational institution.** It is an unfair discriminatory practice:

(1) To discriminate in any manner in the full utilization of or benefit from any educational institution, or the services rendered thereby to any person because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or disability.

(2) To exclude, expel, or otherwise discriminate against a person seeking admission as a student, or a person enrolled as a student because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or disability.

(3) To make or use a written or oral inquiry, or form of application for admission that elicits or attempts to elicit information, or to make or keep a record, concerning the race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status or disability of a person seeking admission, except as permitted by regulations of the department.

**Subd. 6. Aiding and abetting and obstruction.** It is an unfair discriminatory practice for any person:

(1) Intentionally to aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce a person to engage in any of the practices forbidden by this chapter;

(2) Intentionally to attempt to aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce a person to engage in any of the practices forbidden by this chapter;

(3) To intentionally obstruct or prevent any person from complying with the provisions of this chapter, or any order issued thereunder, or to resist, prevent, impede, or interfere with the commissioner or any of his employees or representatives in the performance of duty under this chapter.

**Subd. 7. Reprisals.** It is an unfair discriminatory practice for any employer, labor organization, employment agency, public accommodation, public service, educational institution, or owner, lessor, lessee, sublessee, assignee or managing agent of any real property, or any real estate broker, real estate salesperson or employee or agent thereof to intentionally engage in any reprisal against any person because that person:

(1) Opposed a practice forbidden under this chapter or has filed a charge, testified, assisted, or participated in any matter in an investigation, proceeding or hearing under this chapter; or

(2) Associated with a person or group of persons of different race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

A reprisal includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, retaliation, or harassment. It is a reprisal for an employer to do any of the following with respect to an individual because that individual has engaged in the activities listed in clause (1) or (2): refuse to hire the individual; depart from any customary employment practice; transfer or assign the individual to a lesser position in terms of wages, hours, job classification, job security, or other employment status; or inform another employer that the individual has engaged in the activities listed in clause (1) or (2).

**Subd. 8. Credit; sex discrimination.** It is an unfair discriminatory practice to discriminate in the extension of credit to a person because of sex or marital status.

**Subd. 9. Interference with pension rights.** For purposes of subdivision 1 discrimination on account of age shall include acts which interfere with an employee's opportunity to acquire pension credits or pension benefits when the interference cannot be shown to have been based on just cause unrelated to the employee's status with regard to his pension credits or pension benefits.

**Subd. 10. Discrimination against blind or deaf persons prohibited.** (a) It is an unfair, discriminatory practice for an owner, operator or manager of a hotel, restaurant, public conveyance or other public place, to prohibit a blind or deaf person from taking a guide dog into the public place or conveyance if the guide dog can be properly identified as being from a recognized school for seeing eye, hearing ear or guide dogs, and if the dog is properly harnessed or leashed so that the blind or deaf person may maintain control of the dog.

(b) No person shall require a blind or deaf person to make an extra payment or pay an additional charge when taking a guide dog into any of the public places referred to in paragraph (a).

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 5; 1961 c 428 s 5; 1965 c 585 s 2; 1965 c 586 s 1; 1967 c 897 s 12-16; 1969 c 9 s 80; 1969 c 975 s 3-5; 1973 c 296 s 1; 1973 c 729 s 3; 1974 c 354 s 1; 1975 c 206 s 2-5; 1977 c 351 s 5-7; 1977 c 408 s 3; 1980 c 531 s 4; 1980 c 540 s 1,2; 1981 c 330 s 1; 1982 c 517 s 8

### 363.04 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. **Creation; commissioner.** There is established a department of human rights under the direction and supervision of a commissioner who shall be appointed by the governor under the provisions of section 15.06.

Subd. 2. **Deputy commissioner, duties.** There shall be in the department a deputy commissioner, who shall be appointed by the commissioner and shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner. The deputy commissioner shall act for, and exercise the powers of the commissioner during the absence or disability of the commissioner or in the event of a vacancy in the office of commissioner. The deputy commissioner shall perform such functions, powers and duties as the commissioner shall prescribe from time to time.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1981 c 330 s 8]

Subd. 4. **Committee, membership, appeals.** There is hereby established within the department a human rights advisory committee. The committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the commissioner. The committee shall consist of 15 members to be appointed by the governor. Members shall be appointed with due regard to their fitness for the efficient dispatch of the functions, powers and duties vested in and imposed upon the committee. The governor shall designate from time to time one of the members as chairman.

Subd. 4a. **Terms; compensation; removal; vacancies.** The membership terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the committee shall be as provided in section 15.059.

Subd. 5. **Programs and policies.** The committee shall from time to time recommend programs and policies to the commissioner so as to enable him to better carry out the terms and provisions of this chapter.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1976 c 134 s 79]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1976 c 337 s 3]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1976 c 337 s 3]

Subd. 9. **Departmental organization.** Subject to other provisions of this chapter, the commissioner shall have the powers granted by section 15.06 to organize the department.

Subd. 10. **Continuity in operations.** In exercising the functions, powers and duties conferred on and transferred to the commissioner by Laws 1967, Chapter 897, the commissioner shall give full consideration to the need for operational continuity of the functions transferred.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 6; 1961 c 428 s 6; 1965 c 586 s 2; 1967 c 897 s 17; 1969 c 975 s 6,7; 1969 c 1129 art 8 s 14; 1973 c 729 s 4; 1976 c 134 s 68,69; 1977 c 305 s 38; 1977 c 444 s 17-19

### 363.05 DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER.

Subdivision 1. **Formulation of policies.** The commissioner shall formulate policies to effectuate the purposes of this chapter and shall:

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(1) Exercise leadership under the direction of the governor in the development of human rights policies and programs, and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature for their consideration and implementation;

(2) cooperate and consult with appropriate commissioners and agencies in developing plans and programs to most effectively serve the needs of Indians, to assist women and to fulfill the purposes of chapter 363;

(3) establish and maintain a principal office in St. Paul, and any other necessary branch offices at any location within the state;

(4) meet and function at any place within the state;

(5) employ such hearing examiners, attorneys, clerks and other employees and agents as he may deem necessary and prescribe their duties;

(6) to the extent permitted by federal law and regulation, utilize the records of the department of economic security of the state when necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter;

(7) obtain upon request and utilize the services of all state governmental departments and agencies;

(8) adopt suitable rules and regulations for effectuating the purposes of this chapter;

(9) issue complaints, receive and investigate charges alleging unfair discriminatory practices, and determine whether or not probable cause exists for hearing;

(10) subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production for examination of any books or papers relative to any matter under investigation or in question; authorize hearing examiners to exercise the authority conferred by this clause;

(11) attempt, by means of education, conference, conciliation, and persuasion to eliminate unfair discriminatory practices as being contrary to the public policy of the state;

(12) conduct research and study discriminatory practices;

(13) publish and distribute the results of research and study when in the judgment of the commissioner the purposes of this chapter, will be served thereby;

(14) develop and conduct programs of formal and informal education designed to eliminate discrimination and intergroup conflict by use of educational techniques and programs he deems necessary;

(15) make a written report of the activities of the commissioner to the governor each year and to the legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year;

(16) accept gifts, bequests, grants or other payments public and private to help finance the activities of the department;

(17) create such local and statewide advisory committees as will in his judgment aid in effectuating the purposes of the department of human rights;

(18) appoint a hearing examiner to preside at a public hearing on any complaint;

(19) develop such programs as will aid in determining the compliance throughout the state with the provisions of this chapter, and in the furtherance of such duties, conduct research and study discriminatory practices based upon race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, or other factors and develop accurate data on the nature and extent of discrimination and other matters as they may affect housing, employment, public accommodations, schools, and other areas of public life;

(20) develop and disseminate technical assistance to persons subject to the provisions of this chapter, and to agencies and officers of governmental and private agencies;

(21) provide staff services to such advisory committees as may be created in aid of the functions of the department of human rights;

(22) make grants in aid to the extent that appropriations are made available for that purpose in aid of carrying out his duties and responsibilities, but no grant in aid shall be made without first obtaining the advice and consent of the board;

(23) develop educational programs, community organization programs, leadership development programs, motivational programs, and business development programs for the benefit of those persons theretofore and hereafter subject to prejudice and discrimination;

(24) provide information for and direction to a program designed to assist Indian citizens to assume all the rights, privileges, and duties of citizenship; and to coordinate and cooperate with local, state and national and private agencies providing services to the Indian people; and

(25) cooperate and consult with the commissioner of labor and industry regarding the investigation of violations of, and resolution of complaints regarding section 363.03, subdivision 9.

**Subd. 2. Enforcement of subpoena.** Disobedience of a subpoena issued by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision 1 shall be punishable in like manner as a contempt of the district court in proceedings instituted upon application of the commissioner made to the district court of the county where the alleged unfair discriminatory practice in connection with a charge made by a charging party or a complaint filed by the commissioner has occurred or where the respondent resides or has his principal place of business.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 7; 1961 c 428 s 7; 1967 c 299 s 9; 1967 c 897 s 18; 1969 c 567 s 3; 1969 c 975 s 8; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 24 s 45; 1973 c 254 s 3; 1973 c 729 s 5; 1974 c 406 s 70; 1977 c 351 s 8; 1977 c 408 s 4; 1977 c 430 s 25 subd 1; 1980 c 531 s 5

### 363.06 GRIEVANCES.

**Subdivision 1. Charge filing.** Any person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter may bring a civil action as provided in section 363.14, subdivision 1, clause (a), or may file a verified charge with the commissioner or his designated agent, stating the name and address of the person alleged to have committed an unfair discriminatory practice, setting out the details of the practice complained of and, if applicable, providing witnesses, documents, and any other information required by the commissioner. The commissioner may dismiss a charge when the charging party fails to provide required information. The commissioner within five days of the filing shall serve a copy of the charge and a request for a response upon the respondent personally or by registered or certified mail. After the filing of a charge the commissioner shall notify the charging party in writing of any change in the status of the charge. A copy of the notice shall be mailed to the respondent.

**Subd. 2. Charge, issuance by commissioner.** Whenever the commissioner has reason to believe that a person is engaging in an unfair discriminatory practice, the commissioner may issue a charge stating in statutory language an alleged violation of a particular section of section 363.03.

**Subd. 3. Time for filing claim.** A claim of an unfair discriminatory practice must be brought as a civil action pursuant to section 363.14, subdivision 1, clause (a), or filed in a charge with the commissioner within six months after the occurrence of the practice.

**Subd. 4. Inquiry into charge.** (1) Consistent with clause (7), when a charge has been filed, the commissioner shall promptly inquire into the truth of the allegations of the charge. The commissioner shall make an immediate inquiry

when necessary to prevent a charging party from suffering irreparable loss in the absence of immediate action. The commissioner shall also make an immediate inquiry when it appears that a charge is frivolous or without merit and shall dismiss those charges. On all other charges the commissioner shall make a determination as to whether or not there is probable cause to credit the allegation of unfair discriminatory practices, and

(2) If the commissioner determines after investigation that no probable cause exists to credit the allegations of the unfair discriminatory practice, the commissioner shall, within ten days of the determination, serve upon the charging party and respondent written notice of the determination. Within ten days after receipt of notice, the charging party may request in writing on forms prepared by the department that the commissioner reconsider his determination. The request shall contain a brief statement of the reasons for and new evidence in support of the request for reconsideration. At the time of submission of the request to the commissioner, the charging party shall deliver or mail to the respondent a copy of the request for reconsideration. The commissioner shall either reaffirm or reverse his determination of no probable cause within 20 days after receipt of the request for reconsideration, and he shall within ten days notify in writing the charging party and respondent of his decision to reaffirm or reverse.

A decision by the commissioner that no probable cause exists to credit the allegations of an unfair discriminatory practice shall not be appealed to district court pursuant to section 363.072 or sections 14.63 to 14.68.

(3) If the commissioner determines after investigation that probable cause exists to credit the allegations of unfair discriminatory practices, the commissioner shall serve on the respondent and his attorney if he is represented by counsel, by first class mail, a notice setting forth a short plain written statement of the alleged facts which support the finding of probable cause and an enumeration of the provisions of law allegedly violated. If the commissioner determines that attempts to eliminate the alleged unfair practices through conciliation pursuant to subdivision 5 have been or would be unsuccessful or unproductive, the commissioner shall issue a complaint and serve on the respondent, by registered or certified mail, a written notice of hearing together with a copy of the complaint, requiring the respondent to answer the allegations of the complaint at a hearing before a hearing examiner at a time and place specified in the notice, not less than ten days after service of said complaint. A copy of the notice shall be furnished to the charging party and the attorney general.

(4) If, at any time after the filing of a charge, the commissioner has reason to believe that a respondent has engaged in any unfair discriminatory practice, the commissioner may file a petition in the district court in a county in which the subject of the complaint occurs, or in a county in which a respondent resides or transacts business, seeking appropriate temporary relief against the respondent, pending final determination of proceedings under this chapter, including an order or decree restraining him from doing or procuring an act tending to render ineffectual an order the commissioner may enter with respect to the complaint. The court shall have power to grant temporary relief or a restraining order as it deems just and proper, but no relief or order extending beyond ten days shall be granted except by consent of the respondent or after hearing upon notice to the respondent and a finding by the court that there is reasonable cause to believe that the respondent has engaged in a discriminatory practice. Except as modified by this section, the Minnesota rules of civil procedure shall apply to an application, and the district court shall have authority to grant or deny the relief sought on conditions as it deems just and equitable. All hearings under this section shall be given precedence as nearly as practicable over all other pending civil actions.

(5) If a lessor, after he has engaged in a discriminatory practice defined in section 363.03, subdivision 2, clause (1), (a), leases or rents a dwelling unit to a person who has no knowledge of the practice or of the existence of a charge with respect to the practice, the lessor shall be liable for actual damages sustained by a person by reason of a final order as provided in this section requiring the person to be evicted from the dwelling unit.

(6) In any complaint issued under this section, the commissioner may seek relief for a class of individuals affected by an unfair discriminatory practice occurring on or after a date six months prior to the filing of the charge from which the complaint originates.

(7) The commissioner may adopt policies to determine the order in which charges are processed based on their particular social or legal significance, administrative convenience, difficulty of resolution, or other standard consistent with the provisions of this chapter.

**Subd. 5. Attempts to eliminate unfair practices.** The commissioner, in complying with subdivision 4, shall endeavor to eliminate the unfair discriminatory practice through education, conference, conciliation and persuasion at the place where the practice occurred, or the respondent resides or has his principal place of business.

**Subd. 6. Publication of accounts of cases.** The commissioner may publish an account of a case in which the complaint has been dismissed or the terms of settlement of a case that has been voluntarily adjusted. Except as provided in other sections of this chapter, the commissioner shall not disclose any information concerning his efforts in a particular case to eliminate an unfair discriminatory practice through education, conference, conciliation and persuasion.

**Subd. 7.** [Repealed, 1976 c 301 s 5]

**Subd. 8. Access to documents.** The charging party or his representative may review the answer of the respondent to the charge submitted pursuant to subdivision 1. The department shall make these documents available to the charging party.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 8; 1961 c 428 s 8; 1965 c 586 s 3; 1967 c 897 s 19; 1969 c 975 s 9,10; 1973 c 729 s 6-8; 1976 c 301 s 1,2; 1979 c 156 s 1; 1980 c 540 s 3; 1981 c 330 s 2-5; 1981 c 364 s 1; 1982 c 424 s 130

**363.07** [Repealed, 1967 c 897 s 29]

### **363.071 HEARINGS.**

**Subdivision 1. Conduct of hearings.** A complaint issued by the commissioner shall be heard as a contested case, except that the report of the hearing examiner shall be binding on all parties to the proceeding and if appropriate shall be implemented by an order as provided for in subdivision 2. The hearing shall be conducted at a place designated by the commissioner, within the county where the unfair discriminatory practice occurred or where the respondent resides or has his principal place of business. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 1965, Sections 15.0418, 15.0419, 15.0421, 15.0422, and is subject to appeal in accordance with section 15.0424.

**Subd. 2. Determination of discriminatory practice.** The hearing examiner shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law, and if the hearing examiner finds that the respondent has engaged in an unfair discriminatory practice, the hearing examiner shall issue an order directing the respondent to cease and desist from the unfair discriminatory practice found to exist and to take such affirmative action as in the judgment of the examiner will effectuate the purposes of this

chapter. Such order shall be a final decision of the department. In all cases the examiner may order the respondent to pay an aggrieved party, who has suffered discrimination, compensatory damages, including damages for mental anguish or suffering, and, in all cases, may also order the respondent to pay an aggrieved party, who has suffered discrimination, punitive damages in an amount not more than \$6,000. Punitive damages shall be awarded pursuant to section 549.20. In any case where a political subdivision is a respondent the total of punitive damages awarded an aggrieved party may not exceed \$6,000 and in that case if there are two or more respondents the punitive damages may be apportioned among them. Punitive damages may only be assessed against a political subdivision in its capacity as a corporate entity and no regular or ex-officio member of a governing body of a political subdivision shall be personally liable for payment of punitive damages pursuant to this subdivision. In addition to the aforesaid remedies, in a case involving discrimination in

(a) employment, the examiner may order the hiring, reinstatement or upgrading of an aggrieved party, who has suffered discrimination, with or without back pay, admission or restoration to membership in a labor organization, or his admission to or participation in an apprenticeship training program, on-the-job-training program, or other retraining program, or any other relief the examiner deems just and equitable.

(b) housing, the examiner may order the sale, lease, or rental of the housing accommodation or other real property to an aggrieved party, who has suffered discrimination, or the sale, lease or rental of a like accommodation or other real property owned by or under the control of the person against whom the complaint was filed, according to terms as listed with a real estate broker, or if no such listing has been made, as otherwise advertised or offered by the vendor or lessor, or any other relief the examiner deems just and equitable.

The examiner shall cause the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order to be served on the respondent personally, the charging party by registered or certified mail, and shall furnish copies to the attorney general and the commissioner.

**Subd. 3. Dismissal of hearing.** If the examiner makes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and an order in favor of the respondent, such order shall be a final decision of the department.

**Subd. 4. Respondents subject to state licensing or regulatory power.** In the case of a respondent which is subject to the licensing or regulatory power of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof, if the hearing examiner determines that the respondent has engaged in a discriminatory practice, and if the respondent does not cease to engage in such discriminatory practice, the commissioner may so certify to the licensing or regulatory agency. Unless such determination of discriminatory practice is reversed in the course of judicial review, a final determination is binding on the licensing or regulatory agency. Such agency may take appropriate administrative action, including suspension or revocation of the respondent's license or certificate of public convenience and necessity, if such agency is otherwise authorized to take such action.

**Subd. 5. Public contracts.** In the case of a respondent which is a party to a public contract, if the hearing examiner determines that the respondent has engaged in a discriminatory practice, the commissioner may so certify to the contract letting agency. Unless such finding of a discriminatory practice is reversed in the course of judicial review, a final determination is binding on the contract letting agency and such agency may take appropriate administrative action, including the imposition of financial penalties or termination of the contract, in whole or in part, if such agency is otherwise authorized to take such action.

Subd. 6. **Subpoenas.** After the issuance of a complaint pursuant to section 363.06, subdivision 4, a charging party or a respondent may request that the hearing examiner issue subpoenas requiring the presence of witnesses or the production for examination of books or papers not privileged and relevant to any matter in question at the hearing.

**History:** 1967 c 897 s 20; 1969 c 975 s 11-13; 1973 c 729 s 9; 1976 c 301 s 3; 1980 c 540 s 4; 1981 c 364 s 2

### 363.072 DISTRICT COURT, REVIEW ORDERS OF PANEL OR EXAMINER.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner or any person aggrieved by a final decision of the department reached after a hearing held pursuant to section 363.071 may seek judicial review pursuant to sections 14.63 to 14.68.

Subd. 2. The district court review proceedings shall conform to sections 14.63 to 14.68, judicial review of agency decisions, and section 14.69, scope of judicial review.

**History:** 1967 c 897 s 21; 1973 c 729 s 10; 1977 c 408 s 5; 1982 c 424 s 130

### 363.073 CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope of application.** No department or agency of the state shall accept any bid or proposal for a contract or execute any contract for goods or services in excess of \$50,000 with any business having more than 20 full time employees in Minnesota at any time during the previous 12 months, unless the firm or business has an affirmative action plan for the employment of minority persons, women, and the disabled that has been approved by the commissioner of human rights. Receipt of a certificate of compliance issued by the commissioner shall signify that a firm or business has an affirmative action plan that has been approved by the commissioner. A certificate shall be valid for a period of two years.

Subd. 2. **Revocation of certificate.** Certificates of compliance may be suspended or revoked by the commissioner if a holder of a certificate has not made a good faith effort to implement an affirmative action plan that has been approved by the commissioner. If a contractor does not effectively implement an affirmative action plan approved by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision 1, or fails to make a good faith effort to do so, the commissioner may refuse to approve subsequent plans submitted by that firm or business.

Subd. 3. **Revocation of contract.** A contract awarded by a department or agency of the state may be terminated or abridged by the department or agency because of suspension or revocation of a certificate based upon a contractor's failure to implement or make a good faith effort to implement an affirmative action plan approved by the commissioner under this section.

Subd. 4. **Technical assistance.** In the case of a contractor whose certificate of compliance has been suspended, the commissioner shall provide technical assistance that may enable the contractor to be recertified within 90 days after the contractor's certificate has been suspended.

**History:** 1969 c 975 s 19; 1974 c 527 s 1; 1981 c 326 s 1; 1981 c 356 s 377; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 3 s 14; art 4 s 33

**NOTE:** The amendment to this section by Laws 1981, Chapter 326, Section 1 is effective on the day temporary rules adopted pursuant to section 363.075 are effective. See Laws 1981, Chapter 326, Section 4.

### 363.074 RULES FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE.

The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement section 363.073 specifying the criteria used to review affirmative action plans and the standards used to

review implementation of affirmative action plans. A firm or business certified to be in compliance with affirmative action requirements of a local human rights agency or the federal government shall be deemed to be in compliance with section 363.073 upon submission to the commissioner of an affirmative action plan approved by a local human rights agency or the federal government and amendments to the plan which are necessary to address the employment of disabled persons protected by section 363.03, subdivision 1.

**History:** 1981 c 326 s 2

### 363.075 TEMPORARY RULES.

The commissioner shall have authority to promulgate temporary rules pursuant to chapter 14 to carry out the purposes of section 363.073.

**History:** 1981 c 326 s 3; 1982 c 424 s 130

**363.08** [Repealed, 1967 c 897 s 29]

**363.09** [Repealed, 1967 c 897 s 29]

### 363.091 ENFORCEMENT.

When a respondent fails or refuses to comply with a final decision of the department, the commissioner may file with the clerk of district court in the judicial district in which the hearing was held a petition requesting the court to order the respondent to comply with the order of the department. Thereupon the court shall issue an order to show cause directed to the respondent why an order directing compliance should not be issued. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or rule of civil procedure to the contrary, the court shall examine at the hearing on the order to show cause all the evidence in the record and may amend the order of the department in any way the court deems just and equitable. If the panel or examiner has ordered an award of damages pursuant to section 363.071 and if the court sustains or modifies the award, it shall enter judgment on the order or modified order in the same manner as in the case of an order of the district court, as provided in section 546.27.

**History:** 1967 c 897 s 22; 1969 c 975 s 14; 1973 c 729 s 11

### 363.10 APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT.

The commissioner, or the respondent, may appeal to the supreme court as provided by rule 103.03, clauses (b) and (g) of the rules of civil appellate procedure from an order of the district court issued pursuant to section 363.072, subdivision 1.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 12; 1965 c 51 s 71; 1967 c 897 s 23; 1976 c 239 s 41

NOTE: This section is repealed by Laws 1982, Chapter 501, Section 26 effective August 1, 1983 if the constitutional amendment proposed in Laws 1982, Chapter 501, Section 1 is adopted.

### 363.101 UNFAIR DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE A MISDEMEANOR.

In addition to all other remedies provided under this chapter, every person who commits an unfair discriminatory act as set forth in section 363.03, subdivision 3, or aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to do so, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1969 c 975 s 18

### 363.11 CONSTRUCTION.

The provisions of this chapter shall be construed liberally for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be deemed

to repeal any of the provisions of the civil rights law or of any other law of this state relating to discrimination because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or national origin or familial status; but, as to acts declared unfair by sections 363.03 and 363.123, the procedure herein provided shall, while pending, be exclusive.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 13; 1973 c 729 s 12; 1977 c 351 s 9; 1980 c 531 s 6

### 363.115 REFERRAL TO LOCAL COMMISSION.

The commissioner, whether or not a charge has been filed under this chapter, may refer a matter involving discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, creed, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, age, or familial status to a local commission for study and report.

Upon referral by the commissioner, the local commission shall make a report and make recommendations to the commissioner and take other appropriate action within the scope of its powers.

**History:** 1967 c 897 s 24; 1973 c 729 s 13; 1977 c 351 s 10; 1980 c 531 s 7

### 363.116 TRANSFER TO COMMISSIONER.

A local commission may refer a matter under its jurisdiction to the commissioner.

The charging party has the option of filing a charge either with a local commission or the department. The exercise of such choice in filing a charge with one agency shall preclude the option of filing the same charge with the other agency. At the time a charge comes to the attention of a local agency, the agency or its representative shall inform the charging party of this option, and of his rights under Laws 1967, Chapter 897.

The term "local commission" as used in this section has the same meaning given the term in section 363.115.

**History:** 1967 c 897 s 25

### 363.117 WITHDRAWAL FROM A LOCAL COMMISSION.

Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or ordinance to the contrary, a person who has filed a charge with a local commission may bring a civil action as provided in section 363.14 at the following times:

(a) Within 45 days after the local commission has determined that there is no probable cause to credit the allegations contained in the charge; or

(b) After 45 days from the filing of the charge if a hearing has not been held or if the local commission has not entered into a conciliation agreement to which the charging party is a signator. The charging party shall notify the local commission of his intention to bring a civil action, which shall be commenced within 90 days of giving the notice.

A charging party bringing a civil action shall mail by registered or certified mail a copy of the summons and complaint to the local commission and upon their receipt the local commission shall terminate all proceedings before the local commission relating to the charge. No charge shall be filed or reinstated with the local commission after a civil action relating to the same unfair discriminatory practice has been brought unless the civil action has been dismissed without prejudice.

**History:** 1981 c 330 s 7

**363.12 DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

Subdivision 1. It is the public policy of this state to secure for persons in this state, freedom from discrimination;

(1) In employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, status in regard to public assistance and age;

(2) In housing and real property because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, status with regard to public assistance and familial status;

(3) In public accommodations because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex and disability;

(4) In public services because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability and status in regard to public assistance; and

(5) In education because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, status with regard to public assistance and age. Such discrimination threatens the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of this state and menaces the institutions and foundations of democracy. It is also the public policy of this state to protect all persons from wholly unfounded charges of discrimination. Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted as restricting the implementation of positive action programs to combat discrimination.

Subd. 2. The opportunity to obtain employment, housing, and other real estate, and full and equal utilization of public accommodations, public services, and educational institutions without such discrimination as is prohibited by this chapter is hereby recognized as and declared to be a civil right.

Subd. 3. The department of human rights under the control of the commissioner of human rights is the successor of the state commission against discrimination as it existed immediately prior to July 1, 1967.

Subd. 4. If any provision of Laws 1967, Chapter 897 or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of Laws 1967, Chapter 897 which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of Laws 1967, Chapter 897 are severable.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 1; 1961 c 428 s 16; 1967 c 897 s 26; 1969 c 975 s 15,16; 1973 c 729 s 14,15; 1977 c 351 s 11; 1980 c 531 s 8

**363.121 DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY.**

The attorney general shall be the attorney for the department.

**History:** 1967 c 897 s 27

**363.122 [Repealed, 1978 c 793 s 98]****363.123 VIOLATION OF ACT.**

It shall be a violation of Laws 1973, Chapter 729 for any person furnishing credit service to discriminate against any person who is the recipient of federal, state or local public assistance, including medical assistance, or who is a tenant receiving federal, state or local housing subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements, solely because the individual is such a recipient.

**History:** 1973 c 729 s 16

**363.13 CITATION.**

This chapter shall be known as the Minnesota human rights act.

**History:** 1955 c 516 s 2; 1961 c 428 s 17; 1973 c 729 s 17

**363.14 COURT ACTIONS, SUITS BY PRIVATE PARTIES, INTERVENTION, DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION, ATTORNEY'S FEES, AND COSTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Court actions, suits by private parties, intervention.** A person may bring a civil action seeking redress for an unfair discriminatory practice:

(a) Directly to district court; or

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary, (1) within 45 days after the commissioner has dismissed a charge because it is frivolous or without merit, because the charging party has failed to provide required information, or because the commissioner has determined that there is no probable cause to credit the allegations contained in a charge filed with the commissioner; or (2) after 45 days from the filing of a charge pursuant to section 363.06, subdivision 1 if a hearing has not been held pursuant to section 363.071 or if the commissioner has not entered into a conciliation agreement to which the charging party is a signator. The charging party shall notify the commissioner of his intention to bring a civil action, which shall be commenced within 90 days of giving the notice;

(c) The commissioner may dismiss, without prejudice to the charging party, any case filed with the department on or before June 30, 1978. The commissioner shall notify a charging party by regular mail sent before August 1, 1981, that he has a right to bring a civil action pursuant to this section. Upon giving this notice the commissioner shall end all proceedings in the department relating to the charge. Notwithstanding any statutory period of limitation to the contrary, an individual notified pursuant to this clause may bring a civil action relating to his charge; provided that the action is filed on or before February 1, 1982.

A charging party bringing a civil action shall mail by registered or certified mail a copy of the summons and complaint to the commissioner, and upon their receipt the commissioner shall terminate all proceedings in the department relating to the charge. No charge shall be filed or reinstated with the commissioner after a civil action relating to the same unfair discriminatory practice has been brought unless the civil action has been dismissed without prejudice.

Upon application by the complaining party to the district court at a special term and under circumstances the court deems just, the court may appoint an attorney for the person and may authorize the commencement of the action without payment of fees, costs, or security.

Upon timely application, the court may permit the department to intervene in a civil action brought pursuant to this section upon certification that the case is of general public importance.

**Subd. 2. District court jurisdiction.** Any action brought pursuant to this section shall be filed in the district court of the county wherein the unlawful discriminatory practice is alleged to have been committed or where the respondent resides or has his principal place of business.

Any action brought pursuant to this chapter shall be heard and determined by a judge sitting without a jury.

If the court finds that the respondent has engaged in an unfair discriminatory practice, it shall issue an order directing such relief as it deems appropriate and which effectuates the purpose of this chapter. Such relief shall be limited to that permitted by section 363.071, subdivision 2.

**Subd. 3. Attorney's fees and costs.** In any action or proceeding brought pursuant to this section the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the department, a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the costs.

**History:** 1973 c 729 s 18; 1976 c 301 s 4; 1977 c 455 s 85; 1978 c 793 s 74; 1981 c 330 s 6