



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
3100 CLEBURNE AVENUE • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004  
(713) 313-7011

RECEIVED

OCT 21 1997

Opinion Committee

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
OFFICE: (713) 313-7950; FAX: (713) 313-1906

October 8, 1997

FILE # ML-39843-97

I.D. # 39843

pm 10/8/97

RECEIVED

Certified Return Receipt No. P 197 750 016

OCT 15 1997

Mr. Craig Leavers, Esq.  
Office of the Attorney General  
P. O. Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

*RR-1029*

OPEN RECORDS DIVISION

Re: 1997 Texas House Bill 1 as it relates to the Texas Commission on Human Rights providing training and technical assistance on compliance with employment discrimination laws to State Agencies and Texas Institutions of Higher Education.

Dear Mr. Leavers:

This is to request a decision from your office pursuant to section 552.301(a), TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, concerning whether a State Agency or Institution of Higher Education that has more than three EEO complaints a year has to allow the Texas Commission on Human Rights to conduct a seminar on that subject for the price of \$5,000.00. The University has previously brought in an outside agency to conduct the seminar, namely the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The 1997 Texas House Bill 1 appropriates funds to the Texas Commission on Human Rights to provide training and technical assistance to state agencies and institutions of higher education that have EEO complaints. The purpose of the assistance is to reduce the number of EEO complaints at state agencies and educational institutions. The Bill, however, is not specific in requiring a state agency or an institution of higher education that has more than three EEO complaints to allow the Texas Commission on Human Rights to conduct the seminar. Yet, the Texas Commission on Human Rights personnel states that Texas Southern University must use the Texas Commission on Human Rights. It has subsequently stated that another agency can be used if permission is sought in writing. Hence, we are hereby seeking your opinion on this matter.

It is the University's position that it has authorization pursuant to section 106.31, TEXAS EDUCATION CODE to contract with an outside agency to provide training sessions and EEO seminars at the University.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Elliott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheryl" being more prominent than the last name "Elliott".

Cheryl Elliott  
General Counsel

xc: Christopher Bowen