

# TITLE IX STATUTE

## SUMMARY/ BACKGROUND ---

### Key Points:

- Effective date: June 23, 1972
- Prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded education programs.

The Title IX statute (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972), which became law June 23, 1972, is at 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-88. (20 United States Code, sections 1681 to 1688). The statute was written by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon; its provisions are very general.

The Title IX statute states:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance[.]” There are nine exceptions/exemptions provided in the statute:

- 1) admissions to private undergraduate institutions.
- 2) admissions for specified time frames for institutions in transition from admitting students of one sex to admitting students of both sexes.
- 3) institutions controlled by a religious organization where the Title IX requirements are inconsistent with the religious tenets of the organization.
- 4) military academies.
- 5) admissions to any public undergraduate institutions that have traditionally admitted only students of one sex.
- 6) social fraternities and sororities; YMCA; YWCA; Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; Camp Fire Girls; voluntary youth service organizations.
- 7) American Legion Boys State, Boys Nation, Girls State, Girls Nation conferences.
- 8) mother/daughter, father/son activities are not precluded by Title IX, but only if opportunities for both are comparable.
- 9) scholarships or other financial aid awarded for beauty/talent pageants in which participation is limited to individuals of one sex.

Other statutory provisions are mostly procedural. Sections 1687 and 1688 were added by the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, passed March 22, 1988.

## TITLE IX STATUTE—FULL TEXT

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Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688, 2000 edition)

Public Law 92-318, 92nd Congress, S. 659, June 23, 1972. To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, the Vocational Education Act of 1963, the General Education Provision Act (creating a National Foundation for Postsecondary Education and a National Institute of Education), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Public Law 87-4, Eighty-first Congress, and related Acts, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Education Amendments of 1972." Title IX also amends portions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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### CHAPTER 38—DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEX OR BLINDNESS

Sec.

1681. Sex.
- (a) Prohibition against discrimination; exceptions.
  - (b) Preferential or disparate treatment because of imbalance in participation or receipt of Federal benefits; statistical evidence of imbalance.
  - (c) "Educational institution" defined.
1682. Federal administrative enforcement; report to Congressional committees.
1683. Judicial review.
1684. Blindness or visual impairment; prohibition against discrimination.
1685. Authority under other laws unaffected.
1686. Interpretation with respect to living facilities.
1687. Interpretation of "program or activity".
1688. Neutrality with respect to abortion.

#### CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in sections 1066c, 1221, 1231e, 7231, 7232, 7233, 7235, 8066 of this title; title 29 sections 206, 3938; title 42 sections 290cc-33, 300w-7, 300x-57, 708, 1760, 1988, 2000d-7, 5057, 10406, 12635.

#### § 1681. Sex

##### (a) Prohibition against discrimination; exceptions

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, except that:

##### (1) Classes of educational institutions subject to prohibition

in regard to admissions to educational institutions, this section shall apply only to institutions of vocational education, professional education, and graduate higher education, and to public institutions of undergraduate higher education;

##### (2) Educational institutions commencing planned change in admissions

in regard to admissions to educational institutions, this section shall not apply (A) for one year from June 23, 1972, nor for six years after June 23, 1972, in the case of an educational institution which has begun the process of changing from being an institution which admits only students of one sex to being an institution which admits students of both sexes, but only if it is carrying out a plan for such a change which is approved by the Secretary of Education or (B) for seven years from the date an educational institution begins the process of changing from being an institution which admits only students of only one sex to being an institution which admits students of both sexes, but only if it is carrying out a plan for such a change which is approved by the Secretary of Education, whichever is the later;

**(3) Educational institutions of religious organizations with contrary religious tenets**

this section shall not apply to an educational institution which is controlled by a religious organization if the application of this subsection would not be consistent with the religious tenets of such organization;

**(4) Educational institutions training individuals for military services or merchant marine**

this section shall not apply to an educational institution whose primary purpose is the training of individuals for the military services of the United States, or the merchant marine;

**(5) Public educational institutions with traditional and continuing admissions policy**

in regard to admissions this section shall not apply to any public institution of undergraduate higher education which is an institution that traditionally and continually from its establishment has had a policy of admitting only students of one sex;

**(6) Social fraternities or sororities; voluntary youth service organizations**

this section shall not apply to membership practices -

- (A) of a social fraternity or social sorority which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of title 26, the active membership of which consists primarily of students in attendance at an institution of higher education, or
- (B) of the Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and voluntary youth service organizations which are so exempt, the membership of which has traditionally been limited to persons of one sex and principally to persons of less than nineteen years of age;

**(7) Boy or Girl conferences**

this section shall not apply to -

- (A) any program or activity of the American Legion undertaken in connection with the organization or operation of any Boys State conference, Boys Nation conference, Girls State conference, or Girls Nation conference; or
- (B) any program or activity of any secondary school or educational institution specifically for -
  - (i) the promotion of any Boys State conference, Boys Nation conference, Girls State conference, or Girls Nation conference; or
  - (ii) the selection of students to attend any such conference;

**(8) Father-son or mother-daughter activities at educational institutions**

this section shall not preclude father-son or mother-daughter activities at an educational institution, but if such activities are provided for students of one sex, opportunities for reasonably comparable activities shall be provided for students of the other sex; and

**(9) Institution of higher education scholarship awards in "beauty" pageants**

this section shall not apply with respect to any scholarship or other financial assistance awarded by an institution of higher education to any individual because such individual has received such award in any pageant in which the attainment of such award is based upon a combination of factors related to the personal appearance, poise, and talent of such individual and in which participation is limited to individuals of one sex only, so long as such pageant is in compliance with other nondiscrimination provisions of Federal law.

**(b) Preferential or disparate treatment because of imbalance in participation or receipt of Federal benefits; statistical evidence of imbalance**

Nothing contained in subsection (a) of this section shall be interpreted to require any educational institution to grant preferential or disparate treatment to the members of one sex on account of an imbalance which may exist with respect to the total number or percentage of persons of that sex participating in or receiving the benefits of any federally supported program or activity, in comparison with the total number or percentage of persons of that sex in any community, State, section, or other area: *Provided*, That this subsection shall not be construed to prevent the consideration in any hearing or proceeding under this chapter of statistical evidence tending to show that such an imbalance exists with respect to the participation in, or receipt of the benefits of, any such program or activity by the members of one sex.

**(c) "Educational institution" defined**

For purposes of this chapter an educational institution means any public or private preschool, elementary, or secondary school, or any institution of vocational, professional, or higher education, except that in the case of an educational institution composed of more than one school, college, or department which are administratively separate units, such term means each such school, college, or department.

(Pub. L. 92-318, title IX, § 901, June 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 373; Pub. L. 93-568, § 3(a), Dec. 31, 1974, 88 Stat. 1862; Pub. L. 94-482, title IV, § 412(a), Oct. 12, 1976, 90 Stat. 2234; Pub. L. 96-88, title III, § 301(a)(1), title V, § 507, Oct. 17, 1979, 93 Stat. 677, 692; Pub. L. 99-514, § 2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (b) and (c), was in the original "this title", meaning title IX of Pub. L. 92-318 which enacted this chapter and amended sections 203 and 213 of Title 29, Labor, and sections 2000c, 2000c-6, 2000c-9, and 2000h-2 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of title IX to the Code, see Tables.

## AMENDMENTS

1986—Subsec. (a)(6)(A). Pub. L. 99-514 substituted "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" for "Internal Revenue Code of 1954", which for purposes of codification was translated as "title 26" thus requiring no change in text.

1976—Subsec. (a)(6) to (9). Pub. L. 94-482 substituted "this" for "This" in par. (6) and added pars. (7) to (9).

1974—Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 93-568 added par. (6).

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Section 412(b) of Pub. L. 94-482 provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect upon the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 12, 1976]."

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Section 3(b) of Pub. L. 93-568 provided that: "The provisions of the amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall be effective on, and retroactive to, July 1, 1972."

## SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-259, § 1, Mar. 22, 1988, 102 Stat. 28, provided that: "This Act [enacting sections 1687 and 1688 of this title and section 2000d-4a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, amending sections 706 and 794 of Title 29, Labor, and section 6107 of Title 42, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1687 and 1688 of this title] may be cited as the 'Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987'."

## TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

"Secretary" substituted for "Commissioner" in subsec. (a)(2) pursuant to sections 301(a)(1) and 507 of Pub. L. 96-88, which are classified to sections 3441(a)(1) and 3507 of this title and which transferred functions of Commissioner of Education to Secretary of Education.

## COORDINATION OF IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF PROVISIONS

For provisions relating to the coordination of implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter by the Attorney General, see section 1-201(b) of Ex. Ord. No. 12250, Nov. 2, 1980, 45 F.R. 72995, set out under section 2000d-1 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

## REGULATIONS; NATURE OF PARTICULAR SPORTS: INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Pub. L. 93-380, title VIII, § 844, Aug. 21, 1974, 88 Stat. 612, directed Secretary to prepare and publish, not more than 30 days after Aug. 21, 1974, proposed regulations implementing the provisions of this chapter regarding prohibition of sex discrimination in federally assisted programs, including reasonable regulations for intercollegiate athletic activities considering the nature of the particular sports.

## SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 1682, 1687 of this title.

**§ 1682. Federal administrative enforcement; report to Congressional committees**

Each Federal department and agency which is empowered to extend Federal financial assistance to any education program or activity, by way of grant, loan, or contract other than a contract of insurance or guaranty, is authorized and directed to effectuate the provisions of section 1681 of this title with respect to such program or activity by issuing rules, regulations, or orders of general applicability which shall be consistent with achievement of the objectives of the statute authorizing the financial assistance in connection with which the action is taken. No such rule, regulation, or order shall become effective unless and until approved by the President. Compliance with any requirement adopted pursuant to this section may be effected (1) by the termination of or refusal to grant or to continue assistance under such program or activity to any recipient as to whom there has been an express finding on the record, after opportunity for hearing, of a failure to comply with such requirement, but such termination or refusal shall be limited to the particular political entity, or part thereof, or other recipient as to whom such a finding has been made, and shall be limited in its effect to the particular program, or part thereof, in which such noncompliance has been so found, or (2) by any other means authorized by law: *Provided, however,* That no such action shall be taken until the department or agency concerned has advised the appropriate person or persons of the failure to comply with the requirement and has determined that compliance cannot be secured by voluntary means. In the case of any action terminating, or refusing to grant or continue, assistance because of failure to comply with a requirement imposed pursuant to this section, the head of the Federal department or agency shall file with the committees of the House and Senate having legislative jurisdiction over the program or activity involved a full written report of the circumstances and the grounds for such action. No such action shall become effective until thirty days have elapsed after the filing of such report. (Pub. L. 92-318, title IX, § 902, June 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 374.)

## DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of President relating to approval of rules, regulations, and orders of general applicability under this section, delegated to Attorney General, see section 1-102 of Ex. Ord. No. 12250, Nov. 2, 1980, 45 F.R. 72995, set out under section 2000d-1 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

## SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1683 of this title.

**§ 1683. Judicial review**

Any department or agency action taken pursuant to section 1682 of this title shall be subject to such judicial review as may otherwise be provided by law for similar action taken by such department or agency on other grounds. In the case of action, not otherwise subject to judicial review, terminating or refusing to grant or to continue financial assistance upon a finding of failure to comply with any requirement imposed pursuant to section 1682 of this title, any person aggrieved (including any State or political subdivision thereof and any agency of either) may obtain judicial review of such action in accordance with chapter 7 of title 5, and such action shall not be deemed committed to unreviewable agency discretion within the meaning of section 701 of that title. (Pub. L. 92-318, title IX, § 903, June 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 374.)

## CODIFICATION

"Section 1682 of this title", where first appearing, substituted in text for "section 1002" as conforming to intent of Congress as Pub. L. 92-318 was enacted without any section 1002 and subsequent text refers to "section 902", which is classified to section 1682 of this title.

**§ 1684. Blindness or visual impairment; prohibition against discrimination**

No person in the United States shall, on the ground of blindness or severely impaired vision, be denied admission in any course of study by a recipient of Federal financial assistance for any education program or activity, but nothing herein shall be construed to require any such institution to provide any special services to such person because of his blindness or visual impairment. (Pub. L. 92-318, title IX, § 904, June 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 375.)

**§ 1685. Authority under other laws unaffected**

Nothing in this chapter shall add to or detract from any existing authority with respect to any program or activity under which Federal financial assistance is extended by way of a contract of insurance or guaranty. (Pub. L. 92-318, title IX, § 905, June 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 375.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title IX of Pub. L. 92-318 which enacted this chapter and amended sections 203 and 213 of Title 29, Labor, and sections 2000c, 2000c-6, 2000c-9, and 2000h-2 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of title IX to the Code, see Tables.

**§ 1686. Interpretation with respect to living facilities**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this chapter, nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit any educational institution receiving funds under this Act, from maintaining separate living facilities for the different sexes.

(Pub. L. 92-318, title IX, § 907, June 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 375.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title IX of Pub. L. 92-318 which enacted this chapter and amended sections 203 and 213 of Title 29, Labor, and sections 2000c, 2000c-6, 2000c-9, and 2000h-2 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of title IX to the Code, see Tables.

This Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 92-318, June 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 235, as amended, known as the Education Amendments of 1972. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1001 of this title and Tables.

**§ 1687. Interpretation of "program or activity"**

For the purposes of this chapter, the term "program or activity" and "program" mean all of the operations of -

(1)(A) a department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or of a local government; or

(B) the entity of such State or local government that distributes such assistance and each such department or agency (and each other State or local government entity) to which the assistance is extended, in the case of assistance to a State or local government;

(2)(A) a college, university, or other postsecondary institution, or a public system of higher education; or

(B) a local educational agency (as defined in section 8801 of this title), system of vocational education, or other school system;

(3)(A) an entire corporation, partnership, or other private organization, or an entire sole proprietorship—

(i) if assistance is extended to such corporation, partnership, private organization, or sole proprietorship as a whole; or

(ii) which is principally engaged in the business of providing education, health care, housing, social services, or parks and recreation; or

(B) the entire plant or other comparable, geographically separate facility to which Federal financial assistance is extended, in the case of any other corporation, partnership, private organization, or sole proprietorship; or

(4) any other entity which is established by two or more of the entities described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3), any part of which is extended Federal financial assistance, except that such term does not include any operation of an entity which is controlled by a religious organization if the application of section 1681 of this title to such operation would not be consistent with the religious tenets of such organization.

(Pub. L. 92-318, title IX, § 908, as added Pub. L. 100-259, § 3(a), Mar. 22, 1988, 102 Stat. 28; amended Pub. L. 103-382, title III, § 391(g), Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 4023.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title IX of Pub. L. 92-318 which enacted this chapter and amended sections 203 and 213 of Title 29, Labor, and sections 2000c, 2000c-6, 2000c-9, and 2000h-2 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of title IX to the Code, see Tables.

## AMENDMENTS

1994—Par. (2)(B). Pub. L. 103-382 substituted "section 8801" for "section 2854(a)(10)".

## FINDINGS OF CONGRESS

Section 2 of Pub. L. 100-259 provided that: "The Congress finds that—

"(1) certain aspects of recent decisions and opinions of the Supreme Court have unduly narrowed or cast doubt upon the broad application of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 [20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.], section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [29 U.S.C. 794], the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 [42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.], and title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.]; and

"(2) legislative action is necessary to restore the prior consistent and long-standing executive branch interpretation and broad, institution-wide application of those laws as previously administered."

## CONSTRUCTION

Section 7 of Pub. L. 100-259 provided that: "Nothing in the amendments made by this Act [see Short Title of 1988 Amendment note under section 1681 of this title] shall be construed to extend the application of the Acts so amended [Education Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. 92-318, see Short Title of 1972 Amendment, set out as a note under section 1001 of this title, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., and Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.] to ultimate beneficiaries of Federal financial assistance excluded from coverage before the enactment of this Act [Mar. 22, 1988]."

## ABORTION NEUTRALITY

This section not to be construed to force or require any individual or hospital or any other institution, program, or activity receiving Federal funds to perform or pay for an abortion, see section 8 of Pub. L. 100-259, set out as a note under section 1688 of this title.

**§ 1688. Neutrality with respect to abortion**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require or prohibit any person, or public or private entity, to provide or pay for any benefit or service, including the use of facilities, related to an abortion. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a penalty to be imposed on any person or individual because such person or individual is seeking or has received any benefit or service related to a legal abortion.

(Pub. L. 92-318, title IX, § 909, as added Pub. L. 100-259, § 3(b), Mar. 22, 1988, 102 Stat. 29.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title IX of Pub. L. 92-318 which enacted this chapter and amended sections 203 and 213 of Title 29, Labor, and sections 2000c, 2000c-6, 2000c-9, and 2000h-2 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of title IX to the Code, see Tables.

## CONSTRUCTION

This section not to be construed to extend application of Education Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. 92-318, to ultimate beneficiaries of Federal financial assistance excluded from coverage before Mar. 22, 1988, see section 7 of Pub. L. 100-259, set out as a note under section 1687 of this title.

## ABORTION NEUTRALITY

Section 8 of Pub. L. 100-259 provided that: "No provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act [see Short Title of 1988 Amendment note under section 1681 of this title] shall be construed to force or require any individual or hospital or any other institution, program, or activity receiving Federal Funds [sic] to perform or pay for an abortion."