

Key Legislation to Know For AP Exam

Hatch Act, 1939:

- Limits political activities of civil service employees.

Civil Rights Act of 1964:

- Title II bans discrimination in public places on basis of race, color, national origin, or religion.
- Title VII:
 - Prohibits employment discrimination on basis of all of above, plus sex.
 - Allows employers to give racial preferences in hiring.
 - Executive Order #11247 required federal contractors to adopt affirmative action programs.
 - Allowed class action suits.
 - Enforced by EEOC.

Voting Rights Act of 1965:

- Suspended literacy tests.
- Empowered federal officials to register voters.
- Empowered federal officials to ensure that citizens could vote.
- Empowered federal officials to count ballots.
- Prohibited states from changing voting procedures without federal permission.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 1967:

- Bans age discrimination for jobs unless age is related to job performance.

Air Quality Act, 1967, and various Clean Air Acts, 1960s-1990s:

- Established emission standards for cars and factories.

Federal Election Campaign Acts, 1971-1974:

- Created FEC (Federal Election Commission).
- Required disclosure of contributions and expenditures.
- Provided limitations on contributions and presidential election expenditures.
- Provided subsidies for presidential candidates.

Title IX of Education Act of 1972:

- Prohibited gender discrimination in federally subsidized education programs.

War Powers Act, 1973:

- President could send troops overseas to an area where hostilities were imminent only if:
 - He notified Congress within 48 hours.
 - He withdrew troops within 60-90 days, unless authorized by Congress.
 - He consulted with Congress if troops were to engage in combat.
- Congress can pass resolution to have troops withdrawn at any time.

Freedom of Information Act, 1974:

- Allows public access to nonclassified federal documents.

Budget and Impoundment Control Act, 1974:

- Established congressional budget committees.
- Established CBO (Congressional Budget Office).
- Extended budget process by three months.
- Allows either house to override temporary impoundment (deferral).
- Automatically voids permanent impoundment (rescission) unless both houses approve within 45 days.

Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990

- Bans job discrimination against disabled if “reasonable accommodation” can be made.
- Requires access to facilities for handicapped.
- Permits non-paid leave of absence (in some situations) without jeopardizing job participation.

National Voter Registration Bill (“Motor Voter Act”), 1993:

- Requires states to allow people to register to vote when applying for driver’s licenses applications, or completing license renewal forms.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995:

- Requires CBO to analyze impact of unfounded mandates on states.
- Requires separate congressional vote on bills that impose unfounded mandates.

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (Welfare Reform Act of 1996):

- Ended federal entitlement status of welfare.
- In its place, federal gov’t gave block grants to states to administer welfare.
- Strings attached to these grants include:
 - Recipients must work within 2 years.
 - Recipients cannot receive benefits for more than 5 years.

No Child Left Behind Act, 2001:

- States must adopt education accountability standards.
- States must annually test students.
- Sanctions against schools that fail to meet adequate yearly progress.

USA Patriot Act, 2001:

- Strengthens the federal government’s power to conduct surveillance, perform searches, and detain individuals in order to combat terrorism.

McCain-Feingold Bill (Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002), 2002:

- Raised hard money limits to \$2,000.
- Banned soft money contributions to national political parties.