

1 HB334
2 116577-1
3 By Representatives McClurkin, Coleman, Moore (P), Drake,
4 Kennedy and Ison
5 RFD: Government Appropriations
6 First Read: 19-JAN-10

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would alter the duties,
9 responsibilities, qualifications, funding, and
10 terms of office of members of the Women's
11 Commission.

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13 A BILL
14 TO BE ENTITLED
15 AN ACT

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17 To amend Sections 41-9-410, 41-9-411, and 41-9-413,
18 Code of Alabama 1975, and to add Sections 41-9-415 and
19 41-9-416 to the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Women's
20 Commission, to alter the duties, responsibilities,
21 qualifications, funding, and terms of office of members of the
22 Women's Commission.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. Sections 41-9-410, 41-9-411, and
25 41-9-413, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as
26 follows:

27 "§41-9-410.

1 "There is hereby created and established a
2 continuing Women's Commission, hereinafter referred to as the
3 commission, which shall be composed of three members of the
4 House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
5 House, two members of the Senate appointed by the President
6 Pro Tem of the Senate and 10 members appointed by the
7 Governor. Of those members appointed by the governor, one
8 member shall be appointed from each congressional district as
9 the same are established on September 20, 1971, and two
10 members shall be appointed from the state-at-large. At least
11 seven of the members appointed by the Governor shall be women.
12 The five members representing the Legislature shall be
13 appointed for terms of two years, and their successors shall
14 be appointed for terms of two years. Of those members
15 appointed by the Governor, five members shall be appointed for
16 terms of five years, and five members shall be appointed for
17 terms of three years, and the successors to such 10 appointees
18 shall serve for terms of ~~three~~ five years.

19 "Members shall be selected on the basis of their
20 interests and knowledge in, and their ability to make
21 contributions to, the solutions of problems related to the
22 status of women.

23 "The commission shall report to the Governor and the
24 Legislature.

25 "Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by
26 appointment in the same manner provided for the appointment of
27 the initial members. Any appointment to replace a member whose

1 position becomes vacant prior to the expiration of the term
2 shall be filled only for the remainder of the term.

3 "Members of the commission shall receive no
4 compensation for their services, except that they may be
5 reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incident to
6 their duties as members of the commission, in accordance with
7 state law.

8 "§41-9-411.

9 "The commission shall hold an organizational session
10 at which time the commission shall select a chairman and such
11 other officers from its membership as it deems necessary. The
12 commission shall at its organizational session adopt such
13 procedures and rules that will enable the implementation of
14 the purposes of the commission. It shall have the
15 responsibility of appointing such committees and task forces
16 as they deem necessary. ~~Members of such committees shall serve~~
17 ~~without compensation. It shall be provided with office space~~
18 ~~and necessary office equipment. It may engage employees and~~
19 ~~consultants, hold public hearings and generate other~~
20 ~~activities as may be needed to realize the purposes of the~~
21 ~~commission.~~

22 "§41-9-413.

23 ~~"The commission shall be a continuing vehicle for~~
24 ~~the determination of effective policy and legislation in the~~
25 ~~areas which will affect Alabama's women. It shall study the~~
26 ~~status of women in this state and make recommendations to the~~

1 Governor and Legislature for constructive action in the
2 following areas:

3 ~~"(1) Public and private employment policies and
4 practices;~~

5 ~~"(2) Labor laws dealing with hours, wages and
6 working conditions;~~

7 ~~"(3) Legal rights and responsibilities;~~

8 ~~"(4) Policies and practices with regard to
9 education, counseling and job training;~~

10 ~~"(5) Citizen volunteers; and~~

11 ~~"(6) Home and community.~~

12 "The purpose of the commission is to improve and
13 advance the lives of women in the State of Alabama. The
14 commission may study, make recommendations, educate, and
15 promote constructive action on issues related to women which
16 shall include, but not be limited to, economic development,
17 education, employment, health, legal rights, political
18 participation, and the quality of individual and family life.
19 The areas of responsibility may include any or all of the
20 following:

21 "(1) To create public awareness and understanding of
22 the responsibilities, needs, potentials, and contributions of
23 women and their roles in the changing society.

24 "(2) To research, assemble, analyze, and disseminate
25 pertinent data and educational materials relating to
26 activities and programs which will assist in meeting the needs
27 of women.

1 "(3) To institute, conduct, and/or support
2 educational and other programs, meetings, conferences,
3 hearings, forums, and discussion groups to address matters of
4 concern to the women of the state.

5 "(4) To advise and make recommendations to the
6 Governor and to the Legislature on issues, policies, and
7 programs relating to women.

8 "(5) To evaluate and monitor legislation pending in
9 the Legislature on issues relating to women and make
10 recommendations concerning such legislation to the Governor
11 and the Legislature.

12 "(6) To maintain contact and collaborate with the
13 appropriate federal, state, local, and international agencies
14 concerned with the status of women.

15 "(7) To perform such other functions and duties as
16 imposed upon it by law or as are assigned to it by the
17 Governor or the Legislature, or both."

18 Section 2. Sections 41-9-415 and 41-9-416 are hereby
19 added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

20 §41-9-415.

21 (a) The commission may employ an executive director,
22 who shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and who
23 shall be responsible directly to the commission. The
24 commission shall determine the compensation of the executive
25 director which shall be paid from the funds of the commission.
26 The commission shall designate the duties and responsibilities
27 of the executive director.

1 (b) The commission may employ administrative
2 employees, consultants, research assistants, and other
3 supervisory and professional personnel as may be necessary or
4 advisable for carrying out in the most efficient and
5 beneficial manner the purposes and provisions of this article.
6 The commission may offer to its employees any benefits offered
7 to employes of the State of Alabama, including retirement,
8 medical and dental care, and workers' compensation plans.

9 §41-9-416.

10 (a) The commission shall administer funds allocated
11 for its work and be authorized to accept, disburse, and
12 allocate any funds that may become available from other
13 governmental and private sources, provided that all such funds
14 shall be disbursed or allocated in compliance with any
15 specific designation stated by the donor. In the absence of
16 such specific designation, the funds shall be disbursed or
17 allocated on projects related to any of the purposes of the
18 commission.

19 (b) The commission may impose user fees on
20 participants in its programs, services, or activities. Fees
21 shall not exceed the reasonable cost of administering the
22 programs, services, or activities. The commission or the
23 executive director may waive the user fee if the waiver would
24 promote the purpose of the commission or the participant is
25 unable to pay the user fee.

26 (c) All user fees collected, sponsorships, direct
27 appropriations, and other funds received shall be deposited

1 into a special fund in the State Treasury to be known as the
2 Women's Commission Fund. The commission may make deposits and
3 expenditures from such special fund to administer and
4 implement the purposes of this article, including, but not
5 limited to, expenditures for expenses, meals and receptions,
6 awards, and promotional items. All revenue remaining in the
7 special fund at the end of the fiscal year shall carry over to
8 the next fiscal year and shall not revert to the State General
9 Fund or any other fund.

10 (d) All contributions and gifts of money and
11 property made to the commission shall be exempt from all
12 taxation in the state. All real and personal property, money,
13 income, resources, and activities of the commission shall be
14 exempt from all taxation in the state.

15 (e) The commission may award research grants in
16 accordance with state law and subject to budget
17 appropriations.

18 (f) The commission shall maintain accurate records
19 and books of account covering revenue and expenditures, which
20 shall be subject to audit by the Department of Examiners of
21 Public Accounts.

22 (g) The commission shall be provided with office
23 space and necessary office equipment.

24 Section 3. This act shall become effective
25 immediately following its passage and approval by the
26 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.