

1 HB334
2 119620-3
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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ENROLLED, An Act,

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

"§41-9-410.

"There is hereby created and established a continuing Women's Commission, hereinafter referred to as the commission, which shall be composed of three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and 10 members appointed by the Governor. Of those members appointed by the governor, one member shall be appointed from each congressional district as the same are established on September 20, 1971, and two members shall be appointed from the state-at-large. At least seven of the members appointed by the Governor shall be women. The five members representing the Legislature shall be

1 appointed for terms of two years, and their successors shall
2 be appointed for terms of two years. Of those members
3 appointed by the Governor, five members shall be appointed for
4 terms of five years, and five members shall be appointed for
5 terms of three years, and the successors to such 10 appointees
6 shall serve for terms of ~~three~~ five years.

7 "Members shall be selected on the basis of their
8 interests and knowledge in, and their ability to make
9 contributions to, the solutions of problems related to the
10 status of women.

11 "The commission shall report to the Governor and the
12 Legislature.

13 "Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by
14 appointment in the same manner provided for the appointment of
15 the initial members. Any appointment to replace a member whose
16 position becomes vacant prior to the expiration of the term
17 shall be filled only for the remainder of the term.

18 "Members of the commission shall receive no
19 compensation for their services, except that they may be
20 reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incident to
21 their duties as members of the commission, in accordance with
22 state law.

23 "§41-9-411.

24 "The commission shall hold an organizational session
25 at which time the commission shall select a chairman and such

1 other officers from its membership as it deems necessary. The
2 commission shall at its organizational session adopt such
3 procedures and rules that will enable the implementation of
4 the purposes of the commission. It shall have the
5 responsibility of appointing such committees and task forces
6 as they deem necessary. ~~Members of such committees shall serve~~
7 ~~without compensation. It shall be provided with office space~~
8 ~~and necessary office equipment. It may engage employees and~~
9 ~~consultants, hold public hearings and generate other~~
10 ~~activities as may be needed to realize the purposes of the~~
11 ~~commission.~~

12 "§41-9-413.

13 ~~"The commission shall be a continuing vehicle for~~
14 ~~the determination of effective policy and legislation in the~~
15 ~~areas which will affect Alabama's women. It shall study the~~
16 ~~status of women in this state and make recommendations to the~~
17 ~~Governor and Legislature for constructive action in the~~
18 ~~following areas:~~

19 ~~"(1) Public and private employment policies and~~
20 ~~practices;~~

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

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

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

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

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

3 "The purpose of the commission is to improve and
4 advance the lives of women in the State of Alabama. The
5 commission may study, make recommendations, educate, and
6 promote constructive action on issues related to women which
7 shall include, but not be limited to, economic development,
8 education, employment, health, legal rights, political
9 participation, and the quality of individual and family life.
10 The areas of responsibility may include any or all of the
11 following:

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

15 "(2) To research, assemble, analyze, and disseminate
16 pertinent data and educational materials relating to
17 activities and programs which will assist in meeting the needs
18 of women.

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

23 "(4) To advise and make recommendations to the
24 Governor and to the Legislature on issues, policies, and
25 programs relating to women.

1 "(5) To evaluate and monitor legislation pending in
2 the Legislature on issues relating to women and make
3 recommendations concerning such legislation to the Governor
4 and the Legislature.

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

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

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

13 §41-9-415.

14 (a) The commission may employ an executive director,
15 who shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and who
16 shall be responsible directly to the commission. The
17 commission shall determine the compensation of the executive
18 director which shall be paid from the funds of the commission.
19 The commission shall designate the duties and responsibilities
20 of the executive director.

21 (b) The commission may employ administrative
22 employees, consultants, research assistants, and other
23 supervisory and professional personnel as may be necessary or
24 advisable for carrying out in the most efficient and
25 beneficial manner the purposes and provisions of this article.

1 The commission may offer to its employees any benefits offered
2 to employes of the State of Alabama, including retirement,
3 medical and dental care, and workers' compensation plans.

4 §41-9-416.

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

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

21 (c) All user fees collected, sponsorships, direct
22 appropriations, and other funds received shall be deposited
23 into a special fund in the State Treasury to be known as the
24 Women's Commission Fund. The commission may make deposits and
25 expenditures from such special fund to administer and

1 implement the purposes of this article, including, but not
2 limited to, expenditures for expenses, meals and receptions,
3 awards, and promotional items. All revenue remaining in the
4 special fund at the end of the fiscal year shall carry over to
5 the next fiscal year and shall not revert to the State General
6 Fund or any other fund. Such funds shall be appropriated,
7 budgeted and allotted in accordance with Sections 41-4-80 to
8 41-4-96, inclusive and 41-19-1 to 41-19-12, inclusive and only
9 in amounts stipulated in general appropriations bills and
10 other appropriations bills.

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

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

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

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

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

