
SENATE BILL 5098

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Winsley, Patterson, Long, Brown, Horn, Thibaudeau, Heavey, Spanel, Snyder, Hale, Prentice, Kline, Fraser, McAuliffe and Costa

Read first time 01/13/1999. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington state women's commission; adding
2 a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; creating a new section; and making
3 appropriations.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature reaffirms that the public
6 policy of this state is to ensure equal opportunity and social justice
7 for all of its citizens. The legislature finds that women have unique
8 challenges in achieving equality as a result of historic patterns of
9 discrimination. It is the purpose of this chapter to improve the
10 status and well-being of women by ensuring their full and equal
11 participation in government, business, and education and recognizing
12 their contribution to the home, family, community, the private sector,
13 and the economy. The legislature further finds that it is desirable to
14 direct a continuing evaluation and study of state laws and rules as
15 they affect women; and further, to encourage the education of the
16 citizens of this state with regard to public policy as it relates to
17 the diverse pursuits of women, and to encourage the promotion of
18 equality, as well as equity and social justice. Therefore, the

1 legislature deems it necessary to create a commission to carry out the
2 purposes of this chapter.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state women's commission
4 is established in the office of the governor.

5 (2) The commission shall consist of nine members appointed by the
6 governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Two members of the
7 senate, one from each of the two major political parties, appointed by
8 the president of the senate, and two members of the house of
9 representatives, one from each of the two major political parties,
10 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, shall serve
11 as advisory members. The governor shall consider nominations for
12 membership based upon maintaining a balanced and diverse distribution
13 of ethnic, geographic, sex, age, socioeconomic status, and occupational
14 representation, where practicable.

15 (3) All women's commission members shall serve at the pleasure of
16 the governor, but in no case may any member serve more than three years
17 without formal reappointment by the governor. All legislative advisory
18 members shall serve for a two-year term, and the position of any
19 legislative advisory member shall be deemed vacated whenever such
20 member ceases to be a member of the house from which he or she was
21 appointed. Of the persons initially appointed by the governor to the
22 women's commission, three shall be appointed to serve one year, three
23 to serve two years, and three to serve three years. Upon expiration of
24 such terms, subsequent appointments shall be for three years. Any
25 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be filled
26 for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the
27 original appointments.

28 (4)(a) Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed for expenses
29 incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW
30 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

31 (b) Legislative members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred
32 in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

33 (5) A simple majority of the membership constitutes a quorum for
34 the purpose of conducting business.

35 (6) The governor shall appoint an executive director of the
36 commission.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The executive director shall appoint staff
2 who shall be state employees under Title 41 RCW.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The commission shall adopt rules necessary
4 to carry out the purposes of this chapter in accordance with chapter
5 34.05 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The commission shall examine and define
7 issues pertaining to the rights and needs of all women and make
8 recommendations to the governor, the legislature, and state agencies
9 with respect to desirable changes in programs, laws, and administrative
10 practices.

11 (2) The commission shall further advise such state agencies on the
12 development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated
13 policies, plans, and programs focusing on the special problems and
14 needs of women.

15 (3) The commission may gather data and disseminate information to
16 the public in order to implement the purposes of this chapter.

17 (4) Each state department and agency shall provide appropriate and
18 reasonable assistance to the commission as needed in order that the
19 commission may carry out the purposes of this chapter

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** In carrying out its duties, the commission
21 may establish such relationships with public and private institutions,
22 local governments, private industry, community organizations, and other
23 segments of the general public as may be needed to promote equal
24 opportunity for women in government, education, economic security,
25 employment, and services.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The commission may receive such gifts,
27 grants, and endowments from private sources as may be made from time to
28 time in trust or otherwise for the use and benefit of the purposes of
29 the commission and to expend the same or any income therefrom according
30 to the terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments, and the purposes of
31 this chapter. The executive director shall make a report of such funds
32 received from private sources to the joint legislative audit and review
33 committee on a current basis. Such funds received from private sources
34 shall not be applied to reduce or substitute for the commission's
35 budget as appropriated by the legislature, but, shall be applied and

1 expended toward projects and functions authorized by this chapter that
2 were not funded by the legislature.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its
4 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
5 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
6 persons or circumstances is not affected.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act constitute
8 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The sum of dollars, or as
10 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
11 ending June 30, 2000, from the general fund to the Washington state
12 women's commission for the purposes of this act.

13 (2) The sum of dollars, or as much thereof as may be
14 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001,
15 from the general fund to the Washington state women's commission for
16 the purposes of this act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The Washington state women's commission
18 terminates on June 30, 2005.

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