

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1977



ENROLLED

Committee Substitute for

HOUSE BILL No. 1378

(By Mrs. *Wheeler* & Mrs. *Snyder*)



PASSED April 9, 1977

In Effect ninety days from Passage

ENROLLED
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

H. B. 1378

(By MRS. WEHRLE and MRS. SNYDER)

[Passed April 9, 1977; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend chapter twenty-nine of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated article nineteen, abolishing the West Virginia commission on the status of women, and establishing a new women's commission; members; powers and duties; acceptance of federal funds; cooperation of other agencies; and annual report.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That chapter twenty-nine of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article nineteen, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 19. WOMEN'S COMMISSION.

§29-19-1. Creation; membership; appointment and terms of members; organization; reimbursement for expenses.

1 The West Virginia commission on the status of women is
2 hereby abolished, and there is hereby created within the
3 office of the governor the West Virginia Women's Com-
4 mission, to consist of seventeen members, six of whom shall
5 be ex officio members, not entitled to vote: The attorney

6 general, the state superintendent of schools, the commissioner
7 of labor, the commissioner of welfare, the director of the
8 human rights commission and the director of personnel of
9 the civil service system. Each ex officio member may designate
10 one representative employed by his department to meet with
11 the commission in his absence. The governor shall appoint the
12 additional eleven members, by and with the advice and consent
13 of the Senate, from among the citizens of the state. The gov-
14 ernor shall designate the chairman and vice chairman of the
15 commission and the commission may elect such other officers as
16 it deems necessary. The members shall serve a term begin-
17 ning the first day of July one thousand nine hundred seventy-
18 seven, three to serve for a term of one year, four to serve for a
19 term of two years, and the remaining four to serve for a term of
20 three years. The successors of the members initially appointed
21 as provided herein, shall be appointed for a term of three years
22 each in the same manner as the members initially appointed
23 under this article, except that any person appointed to fill a
24 vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for
25 which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for
26 the remainder of such term. Each member shall serve until
27 the appointment and qualification of his successor.

28 No member may receive any salary for his services, but
29 each may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses
30 incurred by him in the performance of his duties out of funds
31 received by the commission under section four of this article,
32 except that in the event the expenses are paid, or are to be paid,
33 by a third party, the members shall not be reimbursed by the
34 commission.

§29-19-2. Powers and duties of the commission.

1 It is the duty of the commission

2 (a) To review and study the status of women in this state;

3 (b) To recommend methods of overcoming discrimination
4 against women in public and private employment and in the
5 exercise of their civil and political rights;

6 (c) To promote more effective methods for enabling women
7 to develop their skills, to continue their education and to be
8 retrained;

9 (d) To strengthen home life by directing attention to
10 critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, home-
11 makers and workers;

12 (e) To make surveys in the fields of, but not limited to,
13 education, social services, labor laws and employment policies,
14 law enforcement, health, new and expanded services of
15 benefit to women, legal rights, family relations and volunteer
16 services;

17 (f) To secure appropriate recognition of women's accomp-
18 lishments and contributions to this state;

19 (g) To disseminate information for the purpose of educat-
20 ing the public as to the existence and functions of the
21 commission and as to matters of general beneficial interest
22 to women; and

23 (h) To advise and consult with the human rights com-
24 mission on matters relating generally to women.

§29-19-3. Commission administrative personnel.

1 The commission may employ an executive director and
2 such other personnel as may be deemed necessary to ac-
3 complish its objectives. All persons so employed by the
4 commission shall be paid from funds received by the commis-
5 sion under section four of this article.

§29-19-4. Power of commission to accept funds; assistance from other departments.

1 The commission may accept gifts, grants and bequests of
2 funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, the federal
3 government, governmental agencies, and other organizations
4 or institutions; make and sign any agreements and do and
5 perform any acts that may be necessary to carry out the
6 purposes of this article. The commission may request and
7 shall receive from any department or agency of the state
8 government such assistance, information and advice as will
9 enable it to carry out its powers and duties hereunder.

§29-19-5. Rules and regulations.

1 The commission shall adopt rules and regulations con-

2 cerning the operation of the commission, the functions and
3 responsibilities of its officers and employees and such other
4 matters as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this
5 article, subject to the applicable provisions of chapter twenty-
6 nine-a of this code.

§29-19-6. Annual report.

1 The commission shall submit an annual report to the
2 Legislature and the governor, including recommendations
3 based on its studies.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

James L. Davis
Chairman Senate Committee

Clarence C. Chustard Jr
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

J. Chillon, Jr.
Clerk of the Senate

A. Blankenship
Clerk of the House of Delegates

W. B. Blyden Jr.
President of the Senate

Donald L. Kopp
Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 24
day of April, 1977.

John R. Ruffell
Governor

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

APPROVED AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

Date April 24, 1977

Time 4:50 p.m.

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OFFICE
SECY. OF STATE