WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1991

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ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 2809

(By Mr. Delegates Brown and Corra)

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Passed March 9, 1991

In Effect From Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact sections one, two, three, four and six, article twenty, chapter twenty-nine of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the women's commission; continuation within the department of health and human resources; composition of ex officio commission members; continuation of commission; powers and duties; commission administrative personnel; power to accept funds; and annual report.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections one, two, three, four and six, article twenty, chapter twenty-nine of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 20. WOMEN'S COMMISSION.

§29-20-1. Continuation; membership; appointment and terms of members; organization; reimbursement for expenses.

1 The West Virginia commission on the status of women is hereby abolished, and there is hereby continued within the department of health and human resources the West Virginia women's commission, to consist of eighteen members, seven of whom shall be ex officio
members, not entitled to vote: The attorney general, the
state superintendent of schools, the commissioner of
labor, the commissioner of the bureau of human
resources of the department of health and human
resources, the director of the human rights commission,
the director of the division of personnel, and the
chancellor of the board of directors of the state college
system. Each ex officio member may designate one
representative employed by his or her department to
meet with the commission in his or her absence. The
governor shall appoint the additional eleven members,
by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from
among the citizens of the state. The governor shall
designate the chairman and vice chairman of the
commission and the commission may elect such other
officers as it deems necessary. The members shall serve
a term beginning the first day of July, one thousand nine
hundred seventy-seven, three to serve for a term of one
year, four to serve for a term of two years, and the
remaining four to serve for a term of three years. The
successors of the members initially appointed as
provided herein shall be appointed for a term of three
years each in the same manner as the members initially
appointed under this article, except that any person
appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the
expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor
was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of
such term. Each member shall serve until the appoint-
ment and qualification of his or her successor.

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

Pursuant to the provisions of section four, article ten,
chapter four of this code, the West Virginia women's
commission shall continue to exist until the first day of
July, one thousand nine hundred ninety-two, to allow for
the completion of an audit by the joint committee on
government operations.


It is the duty of the commission:

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

(b) To recommend methods of overcoming discrimina-
tion against women in public and private employment
and in the exercise of their civil and political rights;

(c) To promote more effective methods for enabling
women to develop their skills, to continue their educa-
tion and to be retrained;

(d) To strengthen home life by directing attention to
critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers,
homemakers and workers;

(e) To make surveys in the fields of, but not limited
to, education, social services, labor laws and employ-
ment policies, law enforcement, health, new and
expanded services of benefit to women, legal rights,
family relations and volunteer services;

(f) To secure appropriate recognition of women's
accomplishments and contributions to this state;

(g) To disseminate information for the purpose of
educating the public as to the existence and functions
of the commission and as to matters of general beneficial
interest to women; and

(h) To advise, consult and cooperate with other offices
of the department of health and human resources and
other agencies of state government, and to receive
assistance therefrom, in the development of activities
and programs of beneficial interest to women and on
matters relating generally to women.


The commission may, consistent with state personnel
procedures and with the approval of the secretary of the
department of health and human resources or his or her
designee, appoint an executive director, who shall act as
the chief administrative officer of the commission, in
addition to such other duties as he or she may be
assigned. The commission may also, consistent with
state personnel procedures and with the approval of the
secretary of the department of health and human
resources or his or her designee, appoint such other
personnel as may be deemed necessary to accomplish its
objectives. All persons so employed shall be paid from
funds received by the department of health and human
resources or the commission under section four of this
article.

§29-20-4. Power of commission to accept funds.
The commission, or the department of health and
human resources on behalf of the commission, may
accept gifts, grants and bequests of funds from individ-
uals, foundations, corporations, the federal government,
governmental agencies and other organizations or
institutions; make and sign any agreements and do and
perform any acts that may be necessary to carry out the
purposes of this article.

§29-20-6. Annual report.
The commission shall, with the approval of the
secretary of the department of health and human
resources or his or her designee, submit an annual
report to the Legislature and the governor, including
recommendations based on its studies.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 27th day of June, 1991.

Governor