

1 SB386  
2 117959-1  
3 By Senators Coleman, Dunn, Figures, Smith, and Benefield  
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-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.

12  
13 A BILL  
14 TO BE ENTITLED  
15 AN ACT

16  
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.