

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: H2/13/97

A Bill

ACT 699 OF 1997
HOUSE BILL 1519

4 By: Representatives Schexnayder, Hogue, Ferrell, Horn, J. Smith, Brown, Northcutt, Jones, Owens-Ingram, *Wilkins, Hale, D. Hudson,*
5 *Bond, Bennett, Cunningham, Johnson, Wooldridge, Choate and Roberts*

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS WOMEN'S COMMISSION;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

11
12

Subtitle

13
14 "TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS WOMEN'S
15 COMMISSION."

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds and declares that:

20 (1) Arkansas women ranked forty-ninth (49th) and fiftieth (50th) in the
21 nation in areas of poverty and education, respectively, in a study of womens
22 economic and employment status. An important role for state government is to
23 address the betterment of Arkansas women, and thus, the state as a whole. The
24 General Assembly believes that useful and innovative measures can be developed
25 to raise the educational and economic status of women.

26 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly to create the
27 Arkansas Women's Commission, which shall serve as a focal group for
28 initiating policy affecting the advancement of women in education and
29 economics.

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SECTION 2. (a) There is created the Arkansas Women's Commission which
32 shall consist of eleven (11) female members appointed as follows:

33 (1)(A) There shall be four (4) members of the commission appointed by
34 the Governor and each member shall be from one of this states four (4)
35 congressional districts.

1 (B) The Governor shall appoint the four (4) members equally among
2 the two major political parties in this state.

3 (2) There shall be one (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

4 (3) There shall be two (2) legislative members of the commission. One
5 (1) member shall be a member of the Senate and one (1) member shall be a
6 member of the House of Representatives. They shall be appointed by and serve
7 at the pleasure of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of
8 the House, respectively.

9 (4) There shall be one (1) member appointed by the Attorney General.

10 (5) There shall be one (1) member appointed by the Secretary of State.

11 (6) There shall be one (1) member appointed by the State Treasurer.

12 (7) There shall be one (1) member appointed by the Chief Justice of the
13 Arkansas Supreme Court.

14 (b) Members shall be appointed for three (3) year staggered terms, to
15 be assigned by lot. The terms shall commence on January 15 of each year. For
16 the first two years, terms of four (4) members shall expire on January 14
17 beginning January 14, 1999. On the third year, terms of three (3) members
18 shall expire on January 14.

19 (c) The commission shall annually select by majority vote one (1) of
20 its members to serve as a chairperson and one (1) to serve as vice
21 chairperson.

22 (d) In the event of a vacancy on the commission in one of the
23 nonlegislative positions for any reason other than expiration of a regular
24 term, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by
25 appointment of the designated officer in subdivision (a) (3)-(7) of a person
26 meeting the same qualifications required for initial appointment.

27 (e) Members of the commission shall not be entitled to compensation for
28 their services but may receive expense reimbursement and a stipend not to
29 exceed fifty dollars (\$50) per meeting in accordance with §25-16-901 et seq.

30 (f) The legislative members may, to the extent funds are available,
31 receive, in lieu of reimbursement for meals, lodging and travel, the same per
32 diem and mileage allowance for each day of attending meetings of the
33 commission as is authorized by law for attending meetings of the interim
34 committees of the General Assembly.

35 (g) The commission shall hold its first meeting during January, 1998 at

1 a place designated by the Governor. Subsequent meetings will be held
2 quarterly or at the call of the chairperson.

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4 SECTION 3. The Arkansas Women's Commission shall have the following
5 functions, powers, and duties:

6 (1) To study and coordinate efforts to further education and the
7 economic advancement of women;

8 (2) To assist the Governor and the General Assembly in forming state
9 policies and long-range plans for women's education and economic advancement
10 and in answering needs related thereto;

11 (3) To analyze and make recommendations concerning proposed legislation
12 or programs that may affect women's education and economic advancement;

13 (4) To apply for and receive grants or financial assistance from the
14 federal government or other agencies, individuals or corporations;

15 (5) To promote and encourage the establishment of a nonprofit center,
16 and to cooperate and coordinate with and assist the center in acquiring state
17 and federal government and private nonprofit and corporate foundation grant
18 funds to aid in women's education and economic advancement;

19 (6) The commission shall prepare and submit to the President Pro
20 Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House biennially, on January 1 of
21 each odd numbered year, a comprehensive report concerning the activities
22 undertaken by the commission, recommendations for legislative proposals, data
23 concerning women's education and economic advancement and other pertinent
24 information on activities conducted by the commission in the previous
25 biennium. Other copies will be available on request.

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27 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
28 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
29 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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31 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
32 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
33 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
34 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
35 act are declared to be severable.

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SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

/s/Rep. Schexnayder et al

APPROVED: 3-19-97

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