

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

*As Engrossed: S2/1/11*  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 119

5 By: Senators L. Chesterfield, Bledsoe, Crumbly, Elliott, S. Flowers, J. Hutchinson, Irvin, G. Jeffress, J.  
6 Jeffress, Laverty, Luker, Salmon, E. Williams, D. Wyatt  
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF  
10 WOMEN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

12 **Subtitle**

13 TO CREATE THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF  
14 WOMEN.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 84, is amended to add an  
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:

22 20-84-201. Purpose.

23 The purpose of this subchapter is to create the Commission on the  
24 Status of Women to conduct ongoing studies of matters concerning women and to  
25 share these studies with other states that have created similar commissions.  
26

27 20-84-202. Creation – Members.

28 (a) The Commission on the Status of Women is created.

29 (b) The commission shall consist of the following non-legislative  
30 members:

31 (1) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor;

32 (2) Three (3) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of  
33 the Senate; and

34 (3) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
35 Representatives.

36 (c)(1) Of the initial appointees to the commission by the Governor:



1 (A) One (1) member shall serve a term of one (1) year;

2 (B) One (1) member shall serve a term of two (2) years;

3 and

4 (C) One (1) member shall serve a term of three (3) years.

5 (2) Of the initial appointees to the commission by the President  
6 Pro Tempore of the Senate:

7 (A) One (1) member shall serve a term of one (1) year;

8 (B) One (1) member shall serve a term of two (2) years;

9 and

10 (C) One (1) members shall serve a term of three (3) years.

11 (3) Of the initial appointees to the commission by the Speaker  
12 of the House of Representatives:

13 (A) One (1) member shall serve a term of one (1) year;

14 (B) One (1) member shall serve a term of two (2) years;

15 and

16 (C) One (1) member shall serve a term of three (3) years.

17 (4) Each succeeding appointment to the commission shall be for a  
18 term of three (3) years, but the member appointed shall serve until the  
19 member's successor is appointed.

20 (5) Of the initial members appointed by each appointing  
21 authority, the appointing authority shall determine which member serves a  
22 one-year term, which member serves a two-year term, and which member serves a  
23 three-year term.

24 (6) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled by the  
25 appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term in which it  
26 occurs.

27 (d)(1) The Governor shall designate one (1) of his or her appointees  
28 to the commission to:

29 (A) Call the first meeting of the commission; and

30 (B) Serve as chair at the first meeting.

31 (2)(A) At the first meeting, the members of the commission shall  
32 elect from its membership a chair and a vice chair.

33 (B) The chair and the vice chair shall each serve for a  
34 term of two (2) years.

35 (3) The commission shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County  
36 at the State Capitol or via teleconference or web conference as technology

1 becomes available and as desired to allow for scheduling flexibility for its  
2 members.

3 (4) The commission shall meet at least quarterly or as decided  
4 upon by the commission.

5 (e) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a  
6 quorum for transacting business of the commission.

7 (f) All state agencies shall furnish to the commission and its staff  
8 any information and assistance the commission or its staff may reasonably  
9 request.

10 (g) The members of the commission shall not be entitled to  
11 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for any expenses  
12 incurred in the performance of their duties if non-state funds are available.

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14 20-84-203. Duties.

15 (a) The Commission on the Status of Women shall:

16 (1) Study, review, and report on the status of women in  
17 Arkansas;

18 (2) Inform leaders of business, education, health care, state  
19 and local governments, and the communications media of issues pertaining to  
20 women;

21 (3) Serve as a liaison between government and private interest  
22 groups concerned with issues affecting women;

23 (4) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on issues  
24 pertaining to women;

25 (5) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on the effect  
26 on women of proposed legislation; and

27 (6) Promote and facilitate collaboration among local women's  
28 commissions and among women's organizations in the state.

29 (b) The commission shall report by October 1 of each even-numbered  
30 year beginning in 2012 to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the  
31 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives the results of its  
32 findings and activities and any of its recommendations.

33 (c)(1) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including gifts,  
34 donations, grants, or bequests, or any federal funds, to carry out its  
35 duties.

36 (2) The funds shall be deposited into a separate account with

1 the Treasurer of State and be expended by the commission in accordance with  
2 the law.

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*/s/L. Chesterfield*