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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 489 Session of  
1993

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INTRODUCED BY GERLACH, ROBERTS, RUDY, L. I. COHEN, JOSEPHS,  
MUNDY, CORRIGAN, BUNT, VEON, KUKOVICH, BISHOP, MANDERINO,  
RICHARDSON, E. Z. TAYLOR, LEDERER AND RITTER, MARCH 15, 1993

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MARCH 15, 1993

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AN ACT

1 Authorizing counties to establish commissions on the status of  
2 women; and providing for the administration, powers and  
3 duties.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the County  
8 Commission on the Status of Women Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Commission." The Commission on the Status of Women.

14 "County." A county of this Commonwealth except a county of  
15 the first class.

16 "Executive director." The executive director of the  
17 Commission on the Status of Women appointed by the county  
18 commissioners.

1 Section 3. Commission on the Status of Women.

2 (a) Establishment.--The commissioners in each county may  
3 establish a Commission on the Status of Women.

4 (b) Executive director.--The county commissioners shall  
5 appoint an executive director of the commission from a list of  
6 applicants prepared by the governing board of the commission.  
7 The executive director shall serve a term of four years.

8 (c) Staff.--The county commissioners shall provide staff as  
9 is necessary for the functioning of the commission.

10 (d) Salaries and expenses of officers.--The commission shall  
11 be subject to the same budget procedure as every other office in  
12 county government.

13 Section 4. Commission board.

14 (a) Establishment.--The county commissioners shall establish  
15 a board to govern the commission. The board shall consist of no  
16 fewer than seven nor more than 30 members.

17 (b) Selection of members.--

18 (1) The county commissioners shall designate community  
19 organizations with known interests and concerns for women's  
20 issues, and request each to submit a list of names from which  
21 appointments shall be made to the board by the county  
22 commissioners.

23 (2) The annual women's conference shall submit a list of  
24 names from which an appointment shall be made to the board by  
25 the county commissioners.

26 (c) Qualification of members.--A board member must be a  
27 resident of the county for at least one year and shall have a  
28 demonstrated record of involvement and accomplishment in areas  
29 related to women's and family issues. The commission shall  
30 reflect the cross section of women in the county, including

1 minority women, single mothers, women on relief and elderly  
2 women.

3 (d) Terms of members.--All members of the commission shall  
4 be appointed for a four-year term.

5 Section 5. Powers and duties of commission.

6 (a) General rule.--The commission shall have the following  
7 powers and duties:

8 (1) To provide guidelines to the executive director to  
9 assess and plan to address the needs of women, including, but  
10 not limited to, housing, transportation, child and elderly  
11 care, education, job opportunities, child support, custody,  
12 domestic abuse, support enforcement, witness protection, rape  
13 counseling, divorce proceedings and resources for women.

14 (2) To monitor and evaluate programs, including, but not  
15 limited to, housing, transportation, child and elderly care,  
16 education, job opportunities, child support, custody,  
17 domestic abuse, support enforcement, witness protection, rape  
18 counseling, divorce proceedings and resources for women.

19 (3) To print an annual report of its activities and on  
20 the status of women in the county. The report will be given  
21 wide distribution to all public libraries, county information  
22 facilities, municipal buildings and other places of public  
23 access as designated by the county commissioners.

24 (4) To plan, organize and hold an annual conference on  
25 the status of women in the county.

26 (5) To organize women's history month activities.

27 (6) To maintain affirmative action statistics for the  
28 county.

29 (7) To hold monthly public meetings, six of which must  
30 be in the evening.

1           (8) To prepare bylaws.

2           (9) To create subcommittees.

3       (b) Legislative action.--The commission may advocate  
4 legislation where necessary in those areas impacting on the  
5 status of women, including, but not limited to, housing,  
6 transportation, child and elderly care, education, job  
7 opportunities, child support, custody, domestic abuse, support  
8 enforcement, witness protection, rape counseling, divorce  
9 proceedings and resources for women.

10 Section 6. Duties of executive director.

11       (a) General rule.--The executive director shall have the  
12 following powers and duties:

13           (1) To administer the commission.

14           (2) To insure that the functions of the commission are  
15 carried out.

16           (3) To provide staff services to the commission.

17           (4) To develop with the governing board annual plans and  
18 strategies for the commission.

19           (5) To review and evaluate facilities and to develop  
20 with the commission standards for facilities that serve  
21 women.

22           (6) To maintain effective liaison with governmental and  
23 private community agencies and organizations that serve  
24 women.

25           (7) To submit an annual report to the county  
26 commissioners and the governing board, reporting all  
27 activities of the commission and the administration thereof.

28           (8) To analyze and evaluate women's and family needs and  
29 services in the county and recommend improvements to the  
30 governing board and to the county commissioners.

1           (9) To conduct research studies.

2           (10) To take steps and adopt measures that are necessary  
3       for the proper discharge of the executive director's duties  
4       and the fulfillment of the commission's functions.

5       (b) Coordination with other agencies.--The director shall be  
6       invited to attend, ex officio, meetings of those agencies of the  
7       county government whose actions impact on women.

8       Section 7. Effective date.

9       This act shall take effect in 60 days.