

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2427 Session of
2000

INTRODUCED BY LYNCH, BEBKO-JONES, WILLIAMS, L. I. COHEN, ADOLPH, ALLEN, ARGALL, BARD, BARRAR, BATTISTO, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BROWNE, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPABIANCA, CLYMER, M. COHEN, CORRIGAN, COY, DALEY, DERMODY, DeWEESE, FEESE, FICHTER, GEIST, GEORGE, GIGLIOTTI, GORDNER, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, JOSEPHS, KAISER, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, MANDERINO, MANN, MASLAND, McCALL, MCGILL, S. MILLER, ORIE, PESCI, PIPPY, RAMOS, READSHAW, ROBERTS, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SHANER, STABACK, STEELMAN, STURLA, TANGRETTI, TIGUE, TRELLO, TRICH, TRUE, TULLI, VAN HORNE, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI, YUDICHAK AND R. MILLER, MARCH 22, 2000

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 22, 2000

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,
17 and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the
18 number and compensation of the deputies and all other
19 assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and
20 commissions shall be determined," establishing the
21 Pennsylvania Commission for Women.

22 WHEREAS, Over 50% of the population of Pennsylvania is
23 female; and

1 WHEREAS, The need for a strong advocate for the rights of
2 women in all areas of the Commonwealth is no less today than it
3 was upon creation of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women
4 initially; and

5 WHEREAS, Further measures should be taken to increase State
6 efforts to ensure that women have full and equal opportunity to
7 serve in every capacity as citizens of the Commonwealth, free of
8 gender discrimination; and

9 WHEREAS, Women must be educated to represent and protect
10 themselves, their families and their children in Pennsylvania.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known
14 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding a
15 section to read:

16 Section 309. Pennsylvania Commission for Women.--(a) The
17 Pennsylvania Commission for Women is hereby established within
18 the Governor's Office to perform the following duties and
19 functions:

20 (1) Monitor women's educational and employment needs and
21 opportunities.

22 (2) Promote job training, educational programs and upward
23 mobility for women.

24 (3) Encourage the development of and access to funding for
25 small business enterprises owned or operated by women.

26 (4) Promote women for appointed positions in State
27 Government, the judicial system and local government.

28 (5) Issue a biennial report on programs affecting women that
29 are administered by State agencies.

30 (6) Issue a biennial report on new State laws affecting

1 women.

2 (7) Serve as a liaison between government and
3 nongovernmental groups and organizations whose purposes relate
4 to the interests of women.

5 (8) Assist women's groups to institute local self-help
6 activities designed to meet educational, employment and related
7 needs.

8 (9) Serve as a data bank for collecting and disseminating
9 information, using the Internet and other current technologies.

10 (10) Hold public hearings, informal hearings, meetings with
11 advisory groups and conferences regarding any matter related to
12 the accomplishment of its purposes.

13 (11) Propose legislation with the assistance of the General
14 Assembly.

15 (12) Provide an annual report and recommendations for action
16 to the Governor and to the General Assembly.

17 (13) Perform any other functions that it shall deem
18 appropriate in furtherance of these responsibilities.

19 (b) The commission shall consist of seventeen (17) members
20 to be appointed by the Governor. The Majority and Minority
21 Leader of the Senate and the Majority and Minority Leader of the
22 House of Representatives shall each provide a list to the
23 Governor of four candidates and the Governor shall appoint two
24 members of the Commission from each list. The members shall, to
25 the extent practicable, represent diverse geographic, racial and
26 ethnic groups and shall have expertise in such fields as aging,
27 health care, business, education, agriculture, public welfare,
28 child care, insurance and finance, labor and corrections. At
29 least half of the commissioners shall be female. The Governor
30 shall, in consultation with the commission members, designate

1 one commission member to serve as chairperson and one commission
2 member to serve as vice-chairperson. The chairperson and vice-
3 chairperson shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The
4 Governor shall, in consultation with the commission members,
5 appoint an Executive Director of the Commission who will serve
6 at the pleasure of the Governor. The executive director shall
7 report to the Governor and shall assist the commission members
8 in implementing the purposes of this section. The executive
9 director shall, with the approval of the Governor, employ such
10 other persons as needed for the proper administration of the
11 commission.

12 (c) Members shall be appointed for terms of two (2) years.
13 All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Should
14 a vacancy occur on the commission due to resignation, disability
15 or death of a member, the Governor shall appoint a successor as
16 expeditiously as possible and the successor shall serve the
17 duration of the unexpired term. A successor so appointed may
18 thereafter be reappointed.

19 (d) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
20 for their service except that such members may be reimbursed for
21 actual travel and related expenses in accordance with
22 Commonwealth policy.

23 (e) To implement the purpose of this section, the commission
24 may request and receive from any department, division, board,
25 bureau, commission or any other agency of the State or any
26 political subdivision thereof or public authority, such
27 cooperation, assistance, information and data needed to properly
28 carry out its powers and duties.

29 (f) The Office of the Budget shall establish within the
30 General Fund a restricted account for the deposit of gifts and

1 private donations received from third parties for use by the
2 commission.

3 (g) The commission shall meet quarterly and a majority of
4 the commissioners serving at any time shall constitute a quorum.
5 In addition, the commission may hold public hearings to evaluate
6 the effectiveness of Commonwealth services and programs to
7 female residents. The commission is authorized to establish
8 subcommittees and rules and procedures for the effective
9 implementation of its functions consistent with this section.

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.