

Introduced by Senator Evans

February 24, 2012

An act to amend Sections 8244 and 8246 of, to add Section 8250.5 to, and to repeal Sections 8240 and 8245 of, the Government Code, relating to state government, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1345, as introduced, Evans. State government: Commission on the Status of Women.

Existing law creates within state government the Commission on the Status of Women, consisting of 17 members. Existing law sets forth the powers and duties of the commission.

This bill would revise and recast the duties of the commission. The bill would require the commission to advise the Governor and the Legislature on the gender impact of the state's proposed budget. The bill would annually appropriate \$465,000 from the General Fund to the Commission on the Status of Women, thereby making an appropriation.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Governor Pat Brown initially established the Commission
- 4 on the Status of Women as an advisory committee in 1965. The
- 5 committee was made a permanent commission by the Legislature
- 6 and Governor Ronald Reagan in 1971.

1 (b) The commission is an independent voice within state
2 government for California women and girls. The commission
3 serves as an important link between many communities and the
4 government, including working families, incarcerated women,
5 immigrant women, women of color, and those with least access
6 to state government and services.

7 (c) The commission facilitates the development of coalitions of
8 diverse organizations around various issues, such as reproductive
9 rights, paid family leave, and incarcerated women.

10 (d) The commission is an important source of information and
11 data on women and girls for the Legislature, private organizations,
12 individuals, and state and local entities.

13 (e) Eighteen million seven hundred thousand women and girls
14 call California home, comprising over half of all its residents. More
15 than 12 percent of the women and girls in the United States live
16 in California.

17 (f) Women have made tremendous progress in the years since
18 the commission was created, but full equality has not yet been
19 achieved.

20 (g) The current budget crisis and the economy are having a
21 disparate impact on women and their families, making the work
22 of the commission even more important as the state moves forward.

23 (h) This economic downturn is the first in recent history in which
24 women experienced substantial job loss.

25 (i) Although there are signs that California's job market is slowly
26 recovering, recent data suggests that women have not shared
27 equally in the state's modest employment gains.

28 (j) In response to sizeable budget shortfalls, California
29 lawmakers have repeatedly targeted programs that low-income
30 women rely on to support their families, gain the education and
31 skills they need, find and retain jobs, and remain safely in their
32 own homes as they age.

33 (k) Budget cuts have also affected women with disabilities, as
34 well as women who work in child care, in-home care, teaching,
35 and other professions that rely on public funds.

36 (l) Women make up a majority of the workers in local
37 government, a sector that has continued to lose jobs even as the
38 labor market, as a whole, has begun to slowly make gains.

39 (m) For these reasons, it is necessary that the commission be
40 funded pursuant to this act.

1 SEC. 2. Section 8240 of the Government Code is repealed.

2 ~~8240. The Legislature finds and declares that despite the fact~~
3 ~~that women apparently have greater equality in California than in~~
4 ~~many states, they still are not able to contribute to society according~~
5 ~~to their full potential. With a view to developing recommendations~~
6 ~~which will enable women to make the maximum contribution to~~
7 ~~society, the Legislature has created the Commission on the Status~~
8 ~~of Women.~~

9 SEC. 3. Section 8244 of the Government Code is amended to
10 read:

11 8244. The commission shall have the powers and authority
12 necessary to carry out the duties imposed upon it by this chapter,
13 including, but not limited to, the following:

14 (a) *To advise the Governor and the Legislature on the gender*
15 *impact of the state's proposed budget. The committee shall report*
16 *its findings during legislative budget subcommittee hearings.*

17 ~~(a)~~

18 (b) To employ such administrative, technical and other personnel
19 as may be necessary for the performance of its powers and duties.

20 ~~(b)~~

21 (c) To hold hearings, make and sign any agreements and to do
22 or perform any acts which may be necessary, desirable, or proper
23 to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

24 ~~(c)~~

25 (d) To cooperate with, and secure the cooperation of, any
26 department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other agency
27 of the state to facilitate it properly to carry out its powers and duties
28 hereunder.

29 ~~(d)~~

30 (e) To appoint advisers or advisory committees from time to
31 time when the commission determines that the experience or
32 expertise of such advisers or advisory committees is needed for
33 projects of the commission. Section 11009 is applicable to advisers
34 or advisory committees.

35 ~~(e)~~

36 (f) To accept any federal funds granted, by act of Congress or
37 by executive order, for all or any of the purposes of this chapter.

38 ~~(f)~~

39 (g) To accept any gifts, donations, grants, or bequests for all or
40 any of the purposes of this chapter.

1 SEC. 4. Section 8245 of the Government Code is repealed.

2 ~~8245. (a) The commission shall study the following:~~

3 ~~(1) Women's educational and employment problems, needs,~~
4 ~~and opportunities.~~

5 ~~(2) State laws in regard to the civil and political rights of women,~~
6 ~~including pensions, tax requirements, property rights, marriage~~
7 ~~and dissolution of marriage provisions, and similar matters.~~

8 ~~(3) The effect of social attitudes and pressures and economic~~
9 ~~considerations in shaping the roles to be assumed by women in~~
10 ~~the society.~~

11 ~~(4) Any laws, practices, or conditions concerning or affecting~~
12 ~~women which impose special limitations or burdens upon them or~~
13 ~~upon society, or which limit or tend to limit opportunities available~~
14 ~~to women.~~

15 ~~(b) The commission shall act as an information center on the~~
16 ~~status of women and women's educational, employment, and other~~
17 ~~related needs.~~

18 ~~(c) The commission shall recommend, develop, prepare, or~~
19 ~~coordinate materials, projects, or other activities, and shall give~~
20 ~~technical and consultative advice to public or private groups or~~
21 ~~persons concerned with any of the following:~~

22 ~~(1) Preventing or minimizing problems brought about by the~~
23 ~~changing roles and responsibilities of women.~~

24 ~~(2) Developing programs to encourage and enable women to~~
25 ~~be fully contributing members of society.~~

26 ~~(d) A prime function of the commission shall be to encourage~~
27 ~~women's organizations and other groups to institute local self-help~~
28 ~~activities designed to meet women's educational, employment,~~
29 ~~and related needs. The commission shall make reports on its~~
30 ~~activities, findings, and recommendations to the Legislature from~~
31 ~~time to time, but not less often than every odd-numbered year.~~

32 SEC. 5. Section 8246 of the Government Code is amended to
33 read:

34 8246. (a) The commission is expressly authorized to inform
35 the Legislature of its position on any legislative proposal pending
36 before the Legislature and to urge the introduction of legislative
37 proposals *to correct inequities provided in the state budget*.

38 (b) The commission is expressly authorized to state its position
39 and viewpoint on issues *as they relate to the state budget* developed

1 in the performance of its duties and responsibilities as specified
2 in this chapter.

3 (c) This section is declaratory of existing law.

4 SEC. 6. Section 8250.5 is added to the Government Code, to
5 read:

6 8250.5. Notwithstanding Section 13340, there is hereby
7 annually appropriated, on a fiscal year basis, four hundred
8 sixty-five thousand dollars (\$465,000) from the General Fund to
9 the Commission on the Status of Women for purposes of
10 implementing this chapter.

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