

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 10, 2012
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 11, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 1345

Introduced by Senator Evans

February 24, 2012

An act to amend Sections 8241, ~~8242, 8244,~~ 8245, and 8246 of, ~~and to repeal and add Section 8240 of,~~ the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1345, as amended, 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, including certain Members of the Legislature. Existing law sets forth the powers and duties of the commission, and ~~authorizes~~ *requires* the commission to study certain topics.

This bill would authorize the members of the commission who are also Members of the Legislature to vote by proxy. ~~The bill would provide that various powers and duties of the commission shall be carried out only to the extent that funds are available.~~ The bill would ~~authorize~~ *require* the commission to study additional topics. The bill would authorize the Legislature to recommend that the commission study additional topics relevant to women. The bill would authorize the commission to review the implementation of any law to ensure that the law is not discriminating against women or creating an inequitable environment for women.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 8240 of the Government Code is repealed.~~

2 ~~SEC. 2. Section 8240 is added to the Government Code, to~~
3 ~~read:~~

4 ~~8240. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:~~

5 ~~(a) Governor Pat Brown initially established the Commission~~
6 ~~on the Status of Women as an advisory committee in 1965. The~~
7 ~~committee was made a permanent commission by the Legislature~~
8 ~~and Governor Ronald Reagan in 1971.~~

9 ~~(b) The commission is an independent voice within state~~
10 ~~government for California women and girls. The commission~~
11 ~~serves as an important link between many communities and the~~
12 ~~government, including working families, women of color, and~~
13 ~~those with least access to state government and services.~~

14 ~~(c) The commission is an important source of information and~~
15 ~~data on women and girls for the Legislature, private organizations,~~
16 ~~individuals, and state and local entities.~~

17 ~~(d) Eighteen million seven hundred thousand women and girls~~
18 ~~call California home, comprising over one-half of the state's~~
19 ~~residents. More than 12 percent of the women and girls in the~~
20 ~~United States live in California.~~

21 ~~(e) Women have made tremendous progress in the years since~~
22 ~~the commission was created, but full equality has not yet been~~
23 ~~achieved.~~

24 ~~(f) The current budget crisis and the economy are having a~~
25 ~~disparate impact on women and their families, making the work~~
26 ~~of the commission even more important as the state moves forward.~~

27 ~~(g) For these reasons, it is necessary that the commission~~
28 ~~continue to be funded pursuant to this chapter.~~

29 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~
30 ~~following:~~

31 ~~(a) Governor Pat Brown initially established the Commission~~
32 ~~on the Status of Women as an advisory committee in 1965. The~~
33 ~~committee was made a permanent commission by the Legislature~~
34 ~~and Governor Ronald Reagan in 1971.~~

35 ~~(b) The commission is an independent voice within state~~
36 ~~government for California women and girls. The commission serves~~
37 ~~as an important link between many communities and the~~

1 *government, including working families, women of color, and those*
2 *with least access to state government and services.*

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4 *data on women and girls for the Legislature, private organizations,*
5 *individuals, and state and local entities.*

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14 *disparate impact on women and their families, making the work*
15 *of the commission even more important as the state moves forward.*

16 *(g) For these reasons, it is necessary that the commission*
17 *continue to be funded.*

18 ~~SEC. 3.~~

19 SEC. 2. Section 8241 of the Government Code is amended to
20 read:

21 8241. There is in the state government the Commission on the
22 Status of Women. The commission shall consist of 17 members:
23 three Members of the Senate and one public member appointed
24 by the Senate Committee on Rules, three Members of the Assembly
25 and one public member appointed by the Speaker, the
26 Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chief of the Division of
27 Industrial Welfare in the Department of Industrial Relations, and
28 seven public members appointed by the Governor, with the consent
29 of the Senate. The Members of the Legislature shall serve at the
30 pleasure of the appointing powers. The Members of the Legislature
31 may vote by proxy.

32 Public member appointees of the Speaker and the Senate
33 Committee on Rules, and appointees of the Governor shall serve
34 four-year terms. All persons appointed pursuant to Section 2 of
35 Chapter 1378 of the Statutes of 1965, as amended by Chapter 382
36 of the Statutes of 1973, shall continue in office until the expiration
37 of their term and the appointment of their successors. The
38 appointing powers may reappoint a member whose term has
39 expired, and shall immediately fill any vacancy for the unexpired
40 portion of the term in which it occurs.

1 All appointees shall hold office until the appointment of their
2 successors.

3 ~~SEC. 4. Section 8242 of the Government Code is amended to~~
4 ~~read:~~

5 ~~8242. (a) Public members of the commission shall receive one~~
6 ~~hundred dollars (\$100) per diem while on official business of the~~
7 ~~commission, not to exceed 12 days per year. Each member of the~~
8 ~~commission shall also be entitled to receive his or her actual~~
9 ~~necessary traveling expenses while on official business of the~~
10 ~~commission. This subdivision shall be carried out only to the extent~~
11 ~~funds are available.~~

12 ~~(b) The commission shall select annually from its membership,~~
13 ~~a chairperson and vice chairperson.~~

14 ~~SEC. 5. Section 8244 of the Government Code is amended to~~
15 ~~read:~~

16 ~~8244. The commission shall have the powers and authority~~
17 ~~necessary to carry out the duties imposed upon it by this chapter,~~
18 ~~including, but not limited to, the following:~~

19 ~~(a) To employ, to the extent funds are available, any~~
20 ~~administrative, technical and other personnel as may be necessary~~
21 ~~for the performance of its powers and duties.~~

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

25 ~~(c) 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) To appoint, to the extent funds are available, advisers or~~
30 ~~advisory committees from time to time when the commission~~
31 ~~determines that the experience or expertise of those advisers or~~
32 ~~advisory committees is needed for projects of the commission.~~
33 ~~Section 11009 is applicable to advisers or advisory committees.~~

34 ~~(e) To accept any federal funds granted, by act of Congress or~~
35 ~~by executive order, for all or any of the purposes of this chapter.~~

36 ~~(f) To accept any gifts, donations, grants, or bequests for all or~~
37 ~~any of the purposes of this chapter.~~

38 ~~SEC. 6. Section 8245 of the Government Code is amended to~~
39 ~~read:~~

1 ~~8245. (a) The commission shall, to the extent funds are~~
2 ~~available, study all of the following:~~
3 ~~(1) Educational needs of women and girls.~~
4 ~~(2) Women's economic opportunities and employment rights.~~
5 ~~(3) Needs of working women, including, but not limited to,~~
6 ~~leave, child care, and pay equity.~~
7 ~~(4) The effect that the state budget has on women and children.~~
8 ~~(5) Violence against women, including, but not limited to,~~
9 ~~human trafficking.~~
10 ~~(6) The Legislature may recommend that the commission study~~
11 ~~additional current issues relevant to women.~~
12 ~~(b) The commission shall, to the extent funds are available, act~~
13 ~~as an information center on the status of women and women's~~
14 ~~educational, employment, and other related needs.~~
15 ~~(c) The commission shall, to the extent funds are available,~~
16 ~~recommend, develop, prepare, or coordinate materials, projects,~~
17 ~~or other activities, and shall give technical and consultative advice~~
18 ~~to public or private groups or persons concerned with any of the~~
19 ~~topics described in subdivision (a).~~
20 ~~(d) A prime function of the commission to the extent funds are~~
21 ~~available, shall, be to encourage women's organizations and other~~
22 ~~groups to institute local self-help activities designed to meet~~
23 ~~women's educational, employment, and related needs. The~~
24 ~~commission shall make reports on its activities, findings, and~~
25 ~~recommendations to the Legislature from time to time, but not less~~
26 ~~often than every odd-numbered year.~~
27 ~~SEC. 3. Section 8245 of the Government Code is amended to~~
28 ~~read:~~
29 ~~8245. (a) The commission shall study the following:~~
30 ~~(1) Women's educational and employment problems, needs,~~
31 ~~and opportunities—~~*Educational needs of women and girls.*
32 ~~(2) State laws in regard to the civil and political rights of women,~~
33 ~~including pensions, tax requirements, property rights, marriage~~
34 ~~and dissolution of marriage provisions, and similar matters.~~
35 ~~(3) The effect of social attitudes and pressures and economic~~
36 ~~considerations in shaping the roles to be assumed by women in~~
37 ~~the society.~~
38 ~~(4) Any laws, practices, or conditions concerning or affecting~~
39 ~~women which impose special limitations or burdens upon them or~~

1 upon society, or which limit or tend to limit opportunities available
 2 to women:

- 3 (2) *Women’s economic opportunities and employment rights.*
- 4 (3) *Needs of working women, including, but not limited to, leave,*
 5 *child care, and pay equity.*
- 6 (4) *The effect that the state budget has on women and children.*
- 7 (5) *Violence against women, including, but not limited to, human*
 8 *trafficking.*
- 9 (6) *Women in the military and military families.*
- 10 (7) *The Legislature may recommend that the commission study*
 11 *additional current issues relevant to women.*

12 (b) The commission shall act as an information center on the
 13 status of women and women’s educational, employment, and other
 14 related needs.

15 (c) The commission shall recommend, develop, prepare, or
 16 coordinate materials, projects, or other activities, and shall give
 17 technical and consultative advice to public or private groups or
 18 persons concerned with any of the following: *topics described in*
 19 *subdivision (a).*

- 20 ~~(1) Preventing or minimizing problems brought about by the~~
 21 ~~changing roles and responsibilities of women.~~
- 22 ~~(2) Developing programs to encourage and enable women to~~
 23 ~~be fully contributing members of society.~~

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

30 ~~SEC. 7.~~

31 *SEC. 4.* Section 8246 of the Government Code is amended to
 32 read:

33 8246. (a) The commission is expressly authorized to inform
 34 the Legislature of its position on any legislative proposal pending
 35 before the Legislature and to urge the introduction of legislative
 36 proposals to correct inequities provided in the State Budget.

37 (b) The commission is expressly authorized to state its position
 38 and viewpoint on issues as they relate to the State Budget
 39 developed in the performance of its duties and responsibilities as
 40 specified in this chapter.

1 (c) The commission is expressly authorized to review the
2 implementation of any law to ensure that the law does not
3 discriminate against women or create an inequitable environment
4 for women.

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