

SENATE BILL No. 49

January 24, 2007, Introduced by Senator WHITMER and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to create the Michigan women's history commission; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state departments, agencies, commissions, and officers.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Michigan women's history commission act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Department" means the department of history, arts, and
5 libraries.

6 (b) "Michigan women's history commission" or "commission"
7 means the Michigan women's history commission created in section 3.

8 Sec. 3. (1) The Michigan women's history commission is created
9 within the department. The budgeting, procurement, and related
10 functions of the commission and administrative responsibilities for

1 the staff of the commission shall be performed under the direction
2 and supervision of the department.

3 (2) The commission shall consist of the following members:

4 (a) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives.

6 (b) One member appointed by the senate majority leader.

7 (c) One member appointed by the governor from the Michigan
8 hall of fame of the Michigan women's studies association.

9 (d) Eight members at large appointed by the governor.

10 (e) The 3 following members serving ex officio without vote:

11 (i) The director of the Michigan department of education.

12 (ii) The director of the Michigan women's commission.

13 (iii) The director of the department.

14 (3) The first members appointed under subsection (2) shall be
15 appointed no later than April 1, 2008.

16 (4) Members of the commission appointed under subsection
17 (2)(c) and (d) shall serve for terms of 3 years or until a
18 successor is appointed, whichever is later, except that of the
19 members first appointed 3 shall serve for 1 year, 3 shall serve for
20 2 years, and 3 shall serve for 3 years. A member of the commission
21 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives or the
22 senate majority leader under subsection (2)(a) or (b),
23 respectively, shall hold office for a term of 2 years to coincide
24 with the term of office of state representative.

25 (5) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled for the
26 unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

27 (6) The governor, speaker of the house of representatives, or

1 senate majority leader may remove a member of the commission
2 appointed by him or her for incompetency, dereliction of duty,
3 malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or any other
4 good cause.

5 (7) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect from
6 among its members a chairperson and other officers as it considers
7 necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting, the commission
8 shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the call of
9 the chairperson or if requested by 7 or more members appointed
10 under subsection (2)(a), (b), (c), and (d).

11 (8) A majority of the members of the commission appointed
12 under subsection (2)(a), (b), (c), and (d) constitute a quorum for
13 the transaction of business at a meeting of the commission. A
14 majority of the members appointed under subsection (2)(a), (b),
15 (c), and (d) present and serving are required for official action
16 of the commission.

17 (9) The business that the commission may perform shall be
18 conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance
19 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

20 (10) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or
21 retained by the commission in the performance of an official
22 function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442,
23 MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

24 (11) Members of the commission shall serve without
25 compensation. Members of the commission may be reimbursed for their
26 actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their
27 official duties as members of the commission.

1 Sec. 4. The commission shall do all of the following:

2 (a) Review, plan, and implement a master plan to promote and
3 preserve the history of women in this state to enhance Michigan's
4 tourism product and expand educational materials.

5 (b) Work in conjunction with state and federal authorities to
6 sponsor commemorations, linkages, seminars, and public forums on
7 women in this state.

8 (c) Assist and promote the making of applications for
9 inclusion in the national and state register of historic places for
10 significant historic places related to women in Michigan.

11 (d) Assist and develop partnerships to seek public and private
12 funds to carry out activities to protect, preserve, educate, and
13 promote the legacy of women in this state.

14 (e) Assist the department of education and other appropriate
15 organizations in developing and distributing curricula on women's
16 history.

17 Sec. 5. The commission shall annually report to the governor
18 and both houses of the legislature on the activities of the
19 commission in the prior calendar year.