

1 H.100

2 Introduced by Representative Wizowaty of Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Executive; Governor; Commission on Women

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to expand the

7 Commission on Women to include a member of the Progressive Party.

8 An act relating to expanding the Commission on Women to include a
9 member of the Progressive Party

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 22 is amended to read:

12 § 22. THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN

13 (a) The ~~commission on women~~ Commission on Women is created as the
14 successor to the ~~governor's commission on women~~ Governor's Commission
15 on Women established by Executive Order No. 20-86. The ~~commission~~
16 Commission shall be organized and have the duties and responsibilities as
17 provided in this section. The ~~commission~~ Commission shall be an independent
18 agency of the government of Vermont and shall not be subject to the control of
19 any other department or agency. Members of the ~~commission~~ Commission
20 shall be drawn from throughout the ~~state~~ State and from diverse racial, ethnic,

1 religious, age, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and shall
2 have had experience working toward the improvement of the status of women
3 in society.

4 (b) The ~~commission~~ Commission shall consist of ~~16~~ 17 members,
5 appointed as follows:

6 (1) eight members shall be appointed by the ~~governor~~ Governor; no
7 more than ~~four~~ three shall be from one political party.

8 (2) six members shall be appointed by the legislature, three by the ~~senate~~
9 ~~committee on committees~~ Senate Committees on Committees, and three by the
10 ~~speaker of the house~~ Speaker of the House; no more than two appointees shall
11 be members of the legislature. Each appointing authority shall appoint no
12 more than two members from the same political party.

13 (3) ~~two~~ three members, one ~~each from~~ to be appointed by each of the
14 ~~two~~ three major political parties.

15 (c) The terms of members shall be four years. ~~Members of the commission~~
16 ~~currently appointed and serving pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-86 on~~
17 ~~July 1, 2002 may continue to serve for the duration of the four-year term to~~
18 ~~which they were appointed.~~ As terms of currently serving members expire,
19 appointments of successors shall be in accord with the provisions of subsection
20 (b) of this section, and ~~made in the following order:~~ appointments of members

1 to fill vacancies or expired terms shall be made by the authority that made the
2 initial appointment to the vacated or expired term.

3 ~~(1) For terms expiring on June 30, 2002, two shall be made by the~~
4 ~~governor, one shall be made by the committee on committees and one shall be~~
5 ~~made by the speaker.~~

6 ~~(2) For terms expiring on June 30, 2003, two shall be made by the~~
7 ~~governor, and one each shall made by the two major political parties.~~

8 ~~(3) For terms expiring on June 30, 2004, two shall be made by the~~
9 ~~governor, one shall be made by the committee on committees and one shall be~~
10 ~~made by the speaker.~~

11 ~~(4) For terms expiring on June 30, 2005, two shall be made by the~~
12 ~~governor, one shall be made by the committee on committees and one shall be~~
13 ~~made by the speaker. Thereafter, appointments of members to fill vacancies or~~
14 ~~expired terms shall be made by the authority that made the initial appointment~~
15 ~~to the vacated or expired term.~~

16 (d) Members of the ~~commission~~ Commission shall elect biennially by
17 majority vote a chair of the ~~commission~~ Commission. Members of the
18 ~~commission~~ Commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but
19 shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses in the manner and amount
20 provided to employees of the state.

1 (e) Nine members shall constitute a quorum of the ~~commission~~
2 Commission. Once a quorum has been established, the vote of a majority of
3 the members present at the time of the vote shall be an act of the ~~commission~~
4 Commission.

5 (f) The ~~commission~~ Commission may appoint members to an advisory
6 council to provide information on the concerns of Vermont women and assist
7 the ~~commission~~ Commission in the fulfillment of its responsibilities. The
8 ~~commission~~ Commission may establish ad hoc committees or task forces to
9 study and make recommendations to the ~~commission~~ Commission. The
10 chairperson of such committees or task forces shall be appointed by the
11 chairperson of the ~~commission~~ Commission. The tenure of such committees or
12 task forces shall be determined by the nature of the study and the project
13 undertaken.

14 (g) The ~~commission~~ Commission shall conduct studies of matters
15 concerning women, and in furtherance of that responsibility may:

16 (1) review Vermont statutes with regard to sex discrimination and other
17 matters affecting the status of women;

18 (2) educate and inform business, education, state and local governments
19 and the general public about the nature and scope of sex discrimination and
20 other matters affecting the status of women in Vermont;

1 (3) serve as a liaison and clearinghouse between government, private
2 interest groups, and the general public concerned with services for women,
3 and, in this regard, may publish a periodic newsletter to provide information to
4 these constituencies; and

5 (4) promote consideration of qualified women for all levels of
6 government positions.

7 (h) The powers of the ~~commission~~ Commission shall include, ~~but not be~~
8 ~~limited to~~, the following:

9 (1) ~~To~~ to conduct research and study of issues affecting the status of
10 women in Vermont;

11 (2) ~~To~~ to advise and consult with the ~~executive and legislative branches~~
12 Executive and Legislative Branches of state government on policies affecting
13 the status of women in Vermont;

14 (3) ~~To~~ to maintain an office and hire employees as necessary to carry
15 out its duties;

16 (4) ~~To~~ to acquire on a contractual or other basis such necessary legal,
17 technical, or research expertise and support services as it may require for the
18 discharge of its duties;

19 (5) ~~To~~ to publish periodic reports documenting the legal, economic,
20 social, and political status, and other concerns of women in Vermont;

1 (6) ~~To utilize~~ to use such voluntary and uncompensated services of
2 private individuals, agencies, and organizations as may, from time to time, be
3 offered and needed; and

4 (7) ~~To~~ to accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants,
5 or bequests or any federal funds, for any ~~commission~~ Commission related
6 purposes.

7 (i) No part of any funds appropriated to the ~~commission~~ Commission by
8 the legislature shall, in the absence of express authorization by the legislature,
9 be used directly or indirectly for legislative or administrative advocacy. The
10 ~~commission~~ Commission shall review and amend as necessary all existing
11 contracts and grants to ensure compliance with this subsection. For purposes
12 of this subsection, legislative or administrative advocacy means employment
13 of a lobbyist as defined in 2 V.S.A. chapter 11 ~~of Title 2~~, or employment of, or
14 establishment of, or maintenance of, a lobbyist position whose primary
15 function is to influence legislators or state officials with respect to pending
16 legislation or regulations.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.