

By: Senator(s) Blackmon

To: Fees, Salaries and Administration

SENATE BILL NO. 2009

1 AN ACT TO CREATE AND EMPOWER THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON  
2 THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT  
3 ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

4  
5 SECTION 1. (1) (a) There is hereby created the Mississippi  
6 Commission on the Economic Status of Women. The commission shall  
7 be composed of eleven (11) members to be appointed as follows:

8 (i) Six (6) members shall be appointed by the  
9 Governor.

10 (ii) Five (5) members shall be appointed by the  
11 Lieutenant Governor.

12 (b) The members of the commission shall be women and  
13 men of recognized ability and achievement who are representative  
14 of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the population of this  
15 state. Members shall serve for terms of four (4) years each, and  
16 no member may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms. All  
17 vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority for the  
18 unexpired term.

19 (c) The commission shall elect a chairman,  
20 vice-chairman and secretary from among its members for terms of  
21 two (2) years each, and any member is eligible for successive  
22 elections to office.

23 (d) A quorum for transacting business shall be a  
24 majority of the members of the commission.

25 (e) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for  
26 expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
27 and shall receive per diem as provided in Section 25-3-69,

28 Mississippi Code of 1972.

29 (f) The Lieutenant Governor shall notify the Governor  
30 after he has made his appointments, and the Governor shall then  
31 designate a place and time for the initial, organizational meeting  
32 of the commission.

33 (2) The commission shall have the powers and authority  
34 necessary to carry out the duties imposed upon it by this act,  
35 including, but not limited to, the following:

36 (a) To employ such administrative, technical and other  
37 personnel as may be necessary for the performance of its powers  
38 and duties;

39 (b) To hold hearings, make and sign any agreements and  
40 do or perform any acts which may be necessary, desirable or proper  
41 to carry out the purposes of this act;

42 (c) To cooperate with any state agency, authority,  
43 board, commission, department or institution to facilitate its  
44 implementation of the powers and duties granted to the commission  
45 in this act; and each such state agency, authority, board,  
46 commission, department or institution shall cooperate with the  
47 commission in the performance of its duties;

48 (d) To appoint advisers or advisory committees from  
49 time to time when the commission determines that the experience or  
50 expertise of such advisers or advisory committees is needed for  
51 projects of the commission; and

52 (e) To apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts and  
53 services from the state, the government of the United States or  
54 any of its agencies, or any other public or private source, for  
55 the purpose of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may  
56 be necessary in carrying out its duties under this act.

57 (3) (a) The commission shall study, but not be limited to,  
58 the following areas:

59 (i) Women's educational and employment problems,  
60 needs and opportunities;

61 (ii) The socioeconomic factors that influence the  
62 economic status of women;

63 (iii) The development of individual potential;

64 (iv) State laws in regard to the civil, economic

65 and political rights of women, including pensions, tax  
66 requirements, property rights, marriage and dissolution of  
67 marriage provisions, and similar matters;

68 (v) The effect of social attitudes and pressures  
69 and economic considerations in shaping the roles to be assumed by  
70 women in the society; and

71 (vi) Any laws, practices or conditions concerning  
72 or affecting women which impose special limitations or burdens  
73 upon them or upon society, or which limit or tend to limit  
74 economic opportunities available to women.

75 (b) The commission shall act as an information center  
76 on the economic status of women and women's educational,  
77 employment and other related needs.

78 (c) The commission shall recommend, develop, prepare or  
79 coordinate materials, projects or other activities and shall give  
80 technical and consultative advice to public or private groups or  
81 persons concerned with any of the following:

82 (i) Preventing or minimizing problems brought  
83 about by the changing roles and responsibilities of women; and

84 (ii) Developing programs to encourage and enable  
85 women to be fully contributing members of society.

86 (d) The commission may encourage women's organizations  
87 and other groups to institute local self-help activities designed  
88 to meet women's educational, employment and related needs.

89 (4) The commission shall make a report to the Legislature at  
90 the close of each fiscal year on its activities, findings and  
91 recommendations.

92 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
93 and after July 1, 1999.