
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DONNA, LISA
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
DATE: 12/4/2000
CC: FILE

Mississippi is one of only four states that does not have a Commission on the Status of Women (South Dakota, Maine, and Tennessee are the others). In reviewing the missions and charges of the various state Commissions, I have drafted the attached executive order for review and discussion. I concentrated on the active commissions in the contiguous states. Arkansas' Commission is inactive.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. ____

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Mississippi to promote the a better quality of life for all Mississippians;

WHEREAS, Mississippi's demographics are changing and a greater proportion of the state's population, perhaps a majority, are women;

WHEREAS, etc....

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby create and establish the Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women.

I. PURPOSE

The Commission shall meet from time to time to advise the Governor and the Mississippi Legislature regarding issues facing women of Mississippi. The Commission shall study the state of women in this state and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for constructive action, including but not limited to employment policies and practices; legal rights and responsibilities; home and community; women-owned businesses, health issues; mentoring youth and at-risk women; and, educational issues.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women shall be appointed as follows:

- a. The Speaker of the House shall appoint three commissioners;
- b. The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint three commissioners; and,
- c. The Governor shall appoint eleven commissioners:
 - i. Two (2) representatives from education;
 - ii. Two (2) representatives from women-owned businesses or industries;
 - iii. Three (3) representatives from health-related fields;
 - iv. Three (3) representatives from state agencies; and,
 - v. One (1) representative from the legal profession.

III. FUNCTIONS

The Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women shall have the following functions and duties:

- a. To conduct studies and conferences in cooperation with state and local business, civic, and professional organizations;
- b. To advise and inform the Governor and the Legislature as to the status of women in the following areas:
 - i. Employment policies and practices;
 - ii. Educational needs and opportunities pertaining to women;
 - iii. Political civil rights, property rights, and domestic relations;
 - iv. Health issues, including, access, education, counseling, and treatment;
 - v. Legal rights and responsibilities;
 - vi. Mentoring programs and activities for youth and at-risk women;
 - vii. ...
- c. The Commission shall submit an annual report with recommendations to the Governor by November 15, of each year.

IV. COMPENSATION

Members of the Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women shall receive no compensation for service on the commission but may receive reasonable reimbursement for actual expenses to the extent allowed by specific legislation and to the extent funds are available for that purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I Have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, December 15, 2000, in the two hundred and twenty-fourth year of the United States of America.

GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE