2016 -- H 7450

LC004366

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT- RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Introduced By: Representatives Hearn, Messier, and Costa

Date Introduced: February 03, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 42-119 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island 2 Commission on Women" is hereby amended to read as follows: 3 **CHAPTER 42-119** 4 **Rhode Island Commission on Women** 5 **CHAPTER 42-119** 6 RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS 7 SECTION 2. Sections 42-119-1, 42-119-2, 42-119-3 and 42-119-7 of the General Laws 8 in Chapter 42-119 entitled "Rhode Island Commission on Women" are hereby amended to read as follows: 9 10 **42-119-1.** Creation. -- There is created a Rhode Island Commission on Women 11 Commission on Women and Girls, which shall consist of twenty-six (26) members. Members 12 shall be representative of the general public reflecting a broad spectrum of women from all socioeconomic, multi-cultural, and demographic segments as well as various departments of state 13 14 government consistent with the purpose of this chapter. Members shall serve staggered terms of 15 three (3) years. 16 42-119-2. Purpose. -- The purpose of the commission is to advance women and girls toward full equity in all areas of life and to promote rights and opportunities for all women. The 17

commission shall study, make recommendations, and promote constructive action on issues

1	related to women which include, but are not limited to, the following: economic development,
2	education, employment, health, legal rights, political participation, and the quality of individual
3	and family life.
4	<u>42-119-3. Areas of responsibility</u> The commission has the following responsibilities:
5	(1) Advise and submit recommendations to the governor and the general assembly on
6	issues relating to women;
7	(2) Gather and disseminate information to women and/or the general public on issues
8	relating to women;
9	(3) Develop and/or support programs and services for women consistent with the
10	purpose of the commission;
11	(5)(4) Collaborate and/or partner with concerned organizations, groups, and state
12	departments on issues of common concern;
13	(5) Educate and encourage women to exercise the right to vote; encourage candidacy for
14	public office and promote appointment of qualified women to boards, commissions, and
15	government positions at all levels;
16	(6) Evaluate, monitor and propose federal and state legislation and advise legislators on
17	issues relating to women; and
18	(7) Advocate for women's equity in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.
19	42-119-7. Grants and gifts The commission is empowered to apply for and receive
20	from any federal, state, or local agency, private foundation or from any individual, any grants,
21	appropriations, or gifts, which shall be deposited as general restricted revenues. Appropriations
22	shall be utilized in order to carry out the purpose of this commission.
23	SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.
	

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT- RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

1 This act would rename the Rhode Island Commission on Women as the Rhode Island Commission on Women and Girls, allow it to partner with other groups, organizations and state 2 3 departments on issues of common concern and designate any grants, appropriations or gifts 4 received as restricted revenues. This act would take effect upon passage. 5 LC004366