PUBLIC LAW 105–341—OCT. 31, 1998

Public Law 105–341
105th Congress

An Act

Oct. 31, 1998
[S. 2285]

To establish a commission, in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, to further protect sites of importance in the historic efforts to secure equal rights for women.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Women's Progress Commemoration Act.
16 USC 470a note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Women's Progress Commemoration Act".

16 USC 470a note.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

Congress declares that—

(1) the original Seneca Falls Convention, held in upstate New York in July 1848, convened to consider the social conditions and civil rights of women at that time;

(2) the convention marked the beginning of an admirable and courageous struggle for equal rights for women;

(3) the 150th Anniversary of the convention provides an excellent opportunity to examine the history of the women's movement; and

(4) a Federal Commission should be established for the important task of ensuring the historic preservation of sites that have been instrumental in American women's history, creating a living legacy for generations to come.

16 USC 470a note.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the "Women's Progress Commemoration Commission" (referred to in this Act as the "Commission").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

President.
Congress.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President;

(B) 3 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) 3 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(D) 3 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(E) 3 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(2) PERSONS ELIGIBLE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Commission shall be individuals who have knowledge or expertise, whether by experience or training, in matters to be studied by the Commission. The members may be from the public or private sector, and may include Federal, State, or local employees, members of academia, nonprofit organizations, or industry, or other interested individuals.

(B) DIVERSITY.—It is the intent of Congress that persons appointed to the Commission under paragraph (1) be persons who represent diverse economic, professional, and cultural backgrounds.

President.
Congress.

(3) CONSULTATION AND APPOINTMENT.—

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(A) IN GENERAL.—The President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, minority leader of the House of Representatives, majority leader of the Senate, and minority leader of the Senate shall consult among themselves before appointing the members of the Commission in order to achieve, to the maximum extent practicable, fair and equitable representation of various points of view with respect to the matters to be studied by the Commission.

(B) COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENTS; VACANCIES.—The President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, minority leader of the House of Representatives, majority leader of the Senate, and minority leader of the Senate shall conduct the consultation under subparagraph (3) and make their respective appointments not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Commission and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

(c) MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting, the Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(e) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its members.

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

Deadline. Reports. 16 USC 470a note.

Not later than 1 year after the initial meeting of the Commission, the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior and other appropriate Federal, State, and local public and private entities, shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of the Interior a report that—

(1) identifies sites of historical significance to the women's movement; and

(2) recommends actions, under the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) and other law, to rehabilitate and preserve the sites and provide to the public interpretive and educational materials and activities at the sites.

SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

16 USC 470a note.

(a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out its duties of this Act.

(b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. At the request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

16 USC 470a note.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member of the Commission who is not otherwise an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the

Commission. A member of the Commission who is otherwise an officer or employee of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for services as an officer or employee of the United States.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of service for the Commission.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment and termination of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the Commission.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The executive director shall be compensated at a rate not to exceed the rate payable for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code. The Chairperson may fix the compensation of other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for such personnel may not exceed the rate payable for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency, may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and the detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status, benefits, or privilege.

(d) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

16 USC 470a note.

SEC. 7. FUNDING.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

(b) DONATIONS.—The Commission may accept donations from non-Federal sources to defray the costs of the operations of the Commission.

16 USC 470a note.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits to the Secretary of the Interior the report under section 4(b).

SEC. 9. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Deadline.
16 USC 470a note.

Not later than 2 years and not later than 5 years after the date on which the Commission submits to the Secretary of the Interior the report under section 4, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report describing the actions that have been taken to preserve the sites identified in the Commission report as being of historical significance.

Approved October 31, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2285:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105–396 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
Oct. 7, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 10, considered and passed House.