

SENATE BILL 1357

By Campbell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Section 38-6-114, relative to the Tennessee economic council on women.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, is amended by adding the following as a new chapter:

**4-50-101.**

(a) There is created the "Tennessee economic council on women", referred to in this chapter as the "economic council". The economic council is composed of twenty-one (21) members, as follows:

(1) Nine (9) members are jointly appointed by the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, one (1) such member is appointed from each of the nine (9) multi-county development districts created under title 13, chapter 14, part 1;

(2) Two (2) senators are appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(3) Two (2) representatives are appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(4) One (1) member is appointed by the Tennessee black caucus of state legislators;

(5) One (1) member is appointed by the female members of the general assembly;

(6) One (1) cabinet member is appointed by the governor; and

(7) Three (3) members are appointed by the governor, one (1) such member is appointed from nominations received from the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee board of regents, and the Tennessee independent colleges and universities. The nominee must be an academic faculty or staff:

(A) From a state or private four-year university or college with a graduate program; and

(B) With research and teaching experience in the field of economic concerns of women; and

(8) Two (2) at-large members appointed by the governor, who may be selected from lists of qualified persons submitted by interested local, civic, and business groups, including, but not limited to, The Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, League of Women Voters of Tennessee, Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, and Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women. The interested groups shall actively seek persons from as broad a range within each group as is reasonably possible, and shall ensure that such persons broadly represent the community in such areas as age, sex, minority groups, economic levels, employment, and political affiliation.

(b) The initial members serve staggered terms as follows:

(1) Members appointed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) serve two-year terms, expiring June 30, 2023;

(2) Members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (a)(2), (3), and (7) serve three-year terms, expiring June 30, 2024;

(3) Members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (a)(4), (5), and (6) serve one-year terms, expiring June 30, 2022; and

(4) Members appointed pursuant to subdivision (a)(8) serve four-year terms, expiring June 30, 2025.

(c) After initial appointments, members serve for four-year terms. A member must not be appointed for more than two (2) consecutive four-year terms. Vacancies are filled by appointment pursuant to the criteria in this section only for the remainder of the unexpired term. A member initially appointed for a four-year term is not eligible for reappointment without a two-year absence from commission membership. All other members are eligible for reappointment for a four-year term. A two-year absence from the economic council membership qualifies a member for reappointment following the criteria of this section.

(d) By September 15, 2021, the member appointed pursuant to subdivision (a)(5) shall call the first meeting of the economic council to order.

(e) The conflict of interest provisions set forth in § 12-4-101 apply to members of the economic council.

**4-50-102.**

(a)

(1) The economic council meets as necessary to transact business; provided, that meetings are held at least quarterly. Special meetings may be called by the chair or by three (3) members of the economic council, upon delivery of written notice to each member of the economic council. All members must be notified of the time and place of a regular or special meeting at least seven (7) days in advance of such meeting. The economic council may conduct meetings that are open to the public by telephone conference calls with speaker phones or electronic conferencing or both. The meetings must conform to the requirements of title 8, chapter 44, part 1. The economic council shall elect at

the first regular meeting of each calendar year a chair, a vice chair, and three (3) representatives, one (1) from each of the three (3) grand divisions, who comprise the five-member executive committee to function between quarterly meetings. The chair or the executive director may call meetings of the executive committee. The executive committee shall carry out the matters delegated to it by the full economic council. The majority of the members of the economic council constitutes a quorum and the concurrence of a majority of those present and voting in any matter within its duties is required for a determination of matters within its jurisdiction.

(2) Each member serves without compensation. Each member is eligible for expense reimbursement only for attendance at the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings. All reimbursement for travel expenses must be in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(b)

(1) The economic council may promulgate bylaws to provide for the election of officers and establishment of committees, meetings, and regulations as to procedural matters of the economic council. The economic council shall conduct its meetings using Robert's Rules of Order.

(2) The council may promulgate rules in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in chapter 5 of this title.

(c) The economic council may hire an executive director who serves at the pleasure of the economic council.

(d) The economic council shall address the economic concerns and needs of women in Tennessee, including, but not limited to, employment policies and practices, educational needs and opportunities, child care, property rights, health care, domestic relations, and the effect of federal and state laws on women. In order to address these concerns and needs of women, the council may conduct research, hold hearings, develop recommendations and policy, educate the public, and engage in activities for the benefit of women.

(e) The economic council may request funds from the federal government and private sources to implement subsection (d).

(f) The economic council shall consult with and report to the governor, the general assembly, departments, boards, commissions, and other entities of state and local governments on matters pertaining to women. The economic council may request assistance from the departments of state and local governments, and advisory committees as needed.

(g)

(1) The economic council serves as an advocate for women.

(2) The council shall develop a program to find and encourage women to serve on state boards and commissions.

(h) To the extent resources to do so exist, the economic council shall evaluate and quantify the results of job training programs that currently exist, and evaluate if the programs are helping women to obtain better employment.

(i) For administrative purposes, the economic council on women is attached to the department of state for all matters relating to receipts, disbursements, expense accounts, budget, audit, and other related items.

**4-50-103.**

The economic council shall submit a biennial report to the governor and the general assembly by September 1 following the conclusion of any regular annual session occurring in an even-numbered year. The report summarizes the economic council's activities and findings on the economic status of women in this state during the preceding two (2) years. The report includes recommendations for more effective use of existing resources and services for women, and proposals for the development of programs, opportunities, and services that are not otherwise provided, with the aim of development of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services for women. The economic council may make other recommendations as the economic council deems appropriate. A copy of the report must be published and disseminated to the public, as well as copies made available in the offices of the economic council for review by the public.

**4-50-104.**

(a) The executive director is chief administrative officer of the economic council and, pursuant to § 4-50-102(c), serves at the pleasure of the economic council. The executive director is a full-time employee of the economic council and must possess education as deemed necessary by the economic council. The economic council shall establish the executive director's duties and responsibilities that are in addition to those specified in this chapter. The economic council shall evaluate periodically the performance of the executive director. The executive director may conduct the economic council's ordinary and necessary business in the name of the economic council in accordance with this chapter or as determined by the economic council.

(b) The executive director has the following duties:

(1) Supervise the expenditure of funds and be responsible for complying with all applicable provisions of state and federal law in the receipt and disbursement of funds;

(2) Serve as an advocate for women;

(3) Serve as the executive officer of the economic council; and

(4)

(A) Employ personnel as authorized by the economic council; and

(B) Hire and remove any clerical personnel in accordance with the state service system.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-244(a), is amended by inserting the following as a new subdivision:

Tennessee economic council on women, created by § 4-50-101;

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.