



House of Representatives

File No. 677

General Assembly

February Session, 2018

(Reprint of File No. 417)

House Bill No. 5528
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 3, 2018

**AN ACT DECREASING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON
WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SENIORS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a Commission on Women, Children and
4 Seniors, which shall be part of the Legislative Department. The
5 commission shall focus on issues affecting each of the following
6 underrepresented and underserved populations: Women, children and
7 the family and elderly persons. The Commission on Women, Children
8 and Seniors shall constitute a successor to the Permanent Commission
9 on the Status of Women, Commission on Children, and Commission
10 on Aging in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b) to (d),
11 inclusive, and subsection (f) of section 4-38d and section 4-38e.

12 (b) The Commission on Women, Children and Seniors shall consist
13 of [sixty-three] the following members; [, as follows:]

14 (1) With respect to members appointed prior to July 1, 2016, to serve
15 on either the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women,
16 Commission on Children or Commission on Aging and whose term
17 has not expired as of July 1, 2016, such members shall be deemed
18 appointed to serve on the Commission on Women, Children and
19 Seniors until the expiration of the term of the member on such former
20 commission, [or] the occurrence of a vacancy or June 30, 2018,
21 whichever occurs first. Upon the expiration of any such member's term
22 or the occurrence of a vacancy on or after July 1, 2018, the vacancy
23 shall be filled by the appointing authority who made the original
24 appointment, except such appointment shall be made in accordance
25 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

26 (2) [With respect to members appointed on or] (A) On and after July
27 1, [2016] 2018, [to serve on] the Commission on Women, Children and
28 Seniors [, such members] shall [be] consist of twenty-one members,
29 appointed as follows:

30 [(A) Nine] (i) Three members appointed by a joint appointment of
31 the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
32 tempore of the Senate, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in
33 issues concerning women, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in
34 issues concerning children or the family and [three] one of whom
35 [have] has expertise in issues concerning elderly persons, provided at
36 least [three] one of such members shall also be from the central region
37 of the state;

38 [(B) Nine] (ii) Three members appointed by the president pro
39 tempore of the Senate, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in
40 issues concerning women, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in
41 issues concerning children or the family and [three] one of whom
42 [have] has expertise in issues concerning elderly persons, provided at
43 least [three] one of such members shall also be from the northeastern
44 region of the state;

45 [(C) Nine] (iii) Three members appointed by the speaker of the

46 House of Representatives, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in
47 issues concerning women, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in
48 issues concerning children or the family and [three] one of whom
49 [have] has expertise in issues concerning elderly persons, provided at
50 least [three] one of such members shall also be from the southeastern
51 region of the state;

52 [(D) Nine] (iv) Three members appointed by the majority leader of
53 the Senate, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in issues
54 concerning women, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in issues
55 concerning children or the family and [three] one of whom [have] has
56 expertise in issues concerning elderly persons;

57 [(E) Nine] (v) Three members appointed by the majority leader of
58 the House of Representatives, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise
59 in issues concerning women, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise
60 in issues concerning children or the family and [three] one of whom
61 [have] has expertise in issues concerning elderly persons;

62 [(F) Nine] (vi) Three members appointed by the minority leader of
63 the Senate, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in issues
64 concerning women, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise in issues
65 concerning children or the family and [three] one of whom [have] has
66 expertise in issues concerning elderly persons, provided at least [three]
67 one of such members shall also be from the northwestern region of the
68 state; and

69 [(G) Nine] (vii) Three members appointed by the minority leader of
70 the House of Representatives, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise
71 in issues concerning women, [three] one of whom [have] has expertise
72 in issues concerning children or the family and [three] one of whom
73 [have] has expertise in issues concerning elderly persons, provided at
74 least [three] one of such members shall also be from the southwestern
75 region of the state.

76 (B) In the event of a vacancy for any member appointed pursuant to
77 this subdivision, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointing

78 authority.

79 (c) All initial appointments to the commission, other than
80 appointments made pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of
81 this section, shall be made not later than July 31, 2016, and the term of
82 such initial members shall terminate on June 30, 2018, regardless of
83 when the initial appointment was made. The speaker of the House of
84 Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall
85 select the chairperson of the commission from among the members of
86 the commission. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of
87 the commission.

88 (d) Members of the commission appointed on or after July 1, 2018,
89 shall serve for two-year terms which shall commence on the date of
90 appointment. Members shall continue to serve until their successors
91 are appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.
92 Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled
93 for the balance of the unexpired term. The members of the commission
94 shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the limits of
95 available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the
96 performance of their duties.

97 (e) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
98 transaction of any business. The commission shall meet as often as
99 deemed necessary by the chairperson or a majority of the commission.
100 Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings
101 or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any
102 calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the commission.

103 (f) The commission shall have no authority over staffing or
104 personnel matters. There shall be an executive director of the
105 commission. The executive director and any necessary staff shall be
106 employed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, which
107 shall have authority over the hiring, termination and performance
108 review of the executive director and any staff.

109 (g) The commission shall be organized into three policy divisions,

110 one of which shall advise on policies affecting women, one of which
111 shall advise on policies affecting children and family and one of which
112 shall advise on policies affecting elderly persons.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	2-135

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

The bill alters the membership of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors to twenty-one members.

House "A" changed the configuration of the commission, which does not result in a fiscal impact.

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OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5528 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill reduces the total membership of the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors (CWCS) from 63 to 21. To accomplish this, it reduces from nine to three, the total (1) appointments by each of the six legislative leaders and (2) joint appointments by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore.

By law, a minimum number of the total appointments must be from a specified region of the state (e.g., currently, at least three of the House minority leader's nine appointments must be from the state's southwestern region). The bill reduces the required number of these geographic appointments from at least three to at least one for (1) each legislative leader other than the Senate and House majority leader, who are not subject to the requirement, and (2) joint appointments by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore.

Under existing law and the bill, current members' terms expire on June 30, 2018. The next term begins on July 1, 2018, which is when the reduction in membership occurs under the bill.

By law, appointing authorities must allocate their appointments evenly across the commission's three constituencies (i.e., women, children and the family, and the elderly) and fill vacancies. Members serve two-year terms.

The bill also makes technical changes.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill (File 417), which made technical changes in government administration statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

CWCS

By law, the CWCS focuses on issues affecting its three constituencies and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and governor on new or enhanced policies, programs, and services that foster progress in achieving desired quality of life results. In addition, the commission conducts educational and outreach activities to raise awareness of and address critical issues for its constituencies.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/23/2018)