

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 69, consisting of sections*  
 3 *numbered 30-447 through 30-453, relating to Commission on Women's Health established; report.*

4 [S 1120]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 69, consisting of**  
 8 **sections numbered 30-447 through 30-453, as follows:**

9 *CHAPTER 69.*10 *COMMISSION ON WOMEN'S HEALTH.*11 **§ 30-447. Commission on Women's Health; purpose.**

12 *The Commission on Women's Health (the Commission) is established as a commission in the legislative*  
 13 *branch of state government. The purpose of the Commission is to study, report, and make recommendations*  
 14 *on issues related to women's health, including maternal health.*

15 **§ 30-448. Membership; terms; vacancies; chair and vice-chair.**

16 *The Commission shall consist of 15 members that include 10 legislative members and five nonlegislative*  
 17 *citizen members. Members shall be appointed as follows: six members of the House of Delegates to be*  
 18 *appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional*  
 19 *representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; four members of the Senate to be appointed*  
 20 *by the Senate Committee on Rules; two nonlegislative citizen members with significant experience or*  
 21 *expertise in women's or maternal health policy to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates;*  
 22 *three nonlegislative citizen members with significant experience or expertise in women's or maternal health*  
 23 *policy to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be citizens of*  
 24 *the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chair of the Commission and the*  
 25 *respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending*  
 26 *within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings.*

27 *Legislative members of the Commission shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.*  
 28 *Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of two years. Appointments to fill vacancies,*  
 29 *other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Legislative members and nonlegislative*  
 30 *citizen members may be reappointed. However, no nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than four*  
 31 *consecutive two-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy*  
 32 *shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled*  
 33 *in the same manner as the original appointments.*

34 *The Commission shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among its membership, who shall be members of*  
 35 *the General Assembly.*

36 **§ 30-449. Quorum; meetings; voting on recommendations.**

37 *A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Commission shall be held at the*  
 38 *call of the chair or whenever the majority of the members so request.*

39 *No recommendation of the Commission shall be adopted if a majority of the House members or a majority*  
 40 *of the Senate members appointed to the Commission (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the*  
 41 *recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the Commission.*

42 **§ 30-450. Compensation; expenses.**

43 *Legislative members of the Commission shall receive such compensation as provided in § 30-19.12, and*  
 44 *nonlegislative citizen members shall receive such compensation for the performance of their duties as*  
 45 *provided in § 2.2-2813. All members shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in*  
 46 *the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Compensation to members of the*  
 47 *General Assembly for attendance at official meetings of the Commission shall be paid by the offices of the*  
 48 *Clerk of the House of Delegates or Clerk of the Senate, as applicable. All other compensation and expenses*  
 49 *shall be paid from existing appropriations to the Commission or, if unfunded, shall be approved by the Joint*  
 50 *Rules Committee.*

51 **§ 30-451. Powers and duties of the Commission.**52 *The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:*

53 *1. Study and evaluate issues related to women's health, including maternal health, mental health, access*  
 54 *to reproductive care, chronic conditions, and health outcomes;*

55 *2. Examine the intersection of social determinants of health and their impact on women's health*  
 56 *outcomes;*

57 3. Conduct public hearings, facilitate stakeholder engagement, and consult with subject-matter experts as  
58 necessary;

59 4. Identify systemic barriers to equitable health care access for women and recommend policies to  
60 address such barriers; and

61 5. Develop and make recommendations to the General Assembly for legislative, regulatory, and budgetary  
62 changes or policies to improve women's health outcomes in the Commonwealth.

63 **§ 30-452. Staffing.**

64 *The Division of Legislative Services shall provide legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as*  
65 *requested by the Commission. Staff shall perform those duties assigned to it by the Commission. The*  
66 *Commission may also consult or contract with experts who have knowledge of the issues before it within the*  
67 *amounts appropriated for such purpose. The Department of Health, the Department of Medical Assistance*  
68 *Services, and all other agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission upon*  
69 *request of the Commission.*

70 **§ 30-453. Executive summary of activity and work of the Commission.**

71 *The chair shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual executive summary of the*  
72 *interim activity and work of the Commission no later than December 1 of each year. Such executive summary*  
73 *shall include any legislative, regulatory, or budgetary changes or policies recommended by the Commission.*  
74 *The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative*  
75 *Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the*  
76 *General Assembly's website.*

77 **2. That, for its first year of existence, if the Commission is not funded by a separate appropriation in**  
78 **the appropriation act, the Commission may be funded from the operating budgets of the Clerk of the**  
79 **House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate upon the approval of the Joint Rules Committee. If the**  
80 **Commission is not funded by a separate appropriation in the appropriation act for any year thereafter,**  
81 **this chapter shall expire on July 1 of the fiscal year in which the Commission fails to receive such**  
82 **funding.**