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**SB-255 State government: Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.** (2015-2016)

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**Senate Bill No. 255**

**CHAPTER 574**

An act to amend Sections 8241 and 8244 of the Government Code, relating to state government.

[ Approved by Governor October 07, 2015. Filed with Secretary of State October 07, 2015. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 255, Liu. State government: Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Existing law creates within the state government the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls that consists of 17 members, and specifies that one member is the Chief of the Division of Industrial Welfare in the Department of Industrial Relations. Existing law abolished the Division of Industrial Welfare and transferred the duties, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Chief of the Division of Industrial Welfare to the Labor Commissioner, who is the Chief of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

This bill would specify that the Labor Commissioner instead of the Chief of the Division of Industrial Welfare is a member of the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Existing law also provides the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls with the powers and authority necessary to carry out its duties imposed by law, including, but not limited to, to accept any gifts, donations, grants, or bequests for all or any of the purposes of that law. Existing law creates the Women and Girls Fund in the State Treasury to carry out the law in support of the commission upon appropriation by the Legislature. Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene Act), generally requires, with specified exceptions for authorized closed sessions, that the meetings of state bodies be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend.

This bill would specify that the commission may also conduct fundraising activities that may require a payment or purchase to attend, and would exempt from the Bagley-Keene Act the commission at a fundraising event held or organized by the commission, provided that a majority of members do not discuss among themselves any item of business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the commission, and any meetings conducted solely for purposes of raising funds for the Women and Girls Fund, provided that no other item of business that is within the subject matter of the commission is discussed, deliberated, or acted upon.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 8241 of the Government Code is amended to read:

**8241.** (a) There is in the state government the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. The commission shall consist of 17 members to be appointed as follows:

(1) Three Members of the Senate and one public member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

(2) Three Members of the Assembly and one public member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(3) One public member appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(4) The Labor Commissioner.

(5) (A) Seven public members appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate.

(B) One of these public members shall be a veteran or a member of the military.

(b) The Members of the Legislature shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing powers.

(c) Public member appointees of the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Rules, and appointees of the Governor shall serve four-year terms. All persons appointed pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 1378 of the Statutes of 1965, as amended by Chapter 382 of the Statutes of 1973, shall continue in office until the expiration of their term and the appointment of their successors. The appointing powers may reappoint a member whose term has expired, and shall immediately fill any vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term in which it occurs. The appointing powers shall, in making appointments of public members to the commission, make every effort to ensure that there is a geographic balance of representation on the commission.

(d) All appointees shall hold office until the appointment of their successors.

**SEC. 2.** Section 8244 of the Government Code is amended to read:

**8244.** The commission shall have the powers and authority necessary to carry out the duties imposed upon it by this chapter, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) To employ such administrative, technical and other personnel as may be necessary for the performance of its powers and duties.

(b) To hold hearings, make and sign any agreements and to do or perform any acts which may be necessary, desirable, or proper to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(c) To cooperate with, and secure the cooperation of, any department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other agency of the state to facilitate it properly to carry out its powers and duties hereunder.

(d) To appoint advisers or advisory committees from time to time when the commission determines that the experience or expertise of such advisers or advisory committees is needed for projects of the commission. Section 11009 is applicable to advisers or advisory committees.

(e) To accept any federal funds granted, by act of Congress or by executive order, for all or any of the purposes of this chapter.

(f) (1) To accept any gifts, donations, grants, or bequests for all or any of the purposes of this chapter, and to conduct fundraising activities which may require a payment or purchase to attend.

(2) Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 shall not apply to the commission at a fundraising event held or organized by the commission, provided that a majority of members do not discuss among themselves any item of business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the commission.

(3) Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 shall not apply to any meetings conducted solely for purposes of raising funds for the Women and Girls Fund, provided that no other item of business that is within the subject matter of the commission is discussed, deliberated, or acted upon.