

SENATE, No. 1907

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Creates the Office on Women's Research and Policy and appropriates \$150,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT creating the Office on Women's Research and Policy,
2 P.L.1974, c.87 (C.52:27D-43.8 et seq.) and making an
3 appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. There is established the Office of Women's Research and
9 Policy in the Division on Women in the Department of Children and
10 Families. The purpose of the office shall be to stimulate and
11 encourage throughout the State the study and review of the status of
12 women, and to strengthen family life by directing attention to
13 critical problems confronting women as homemakers, mothers,
14 spouses and workers.
15

16 2. The Office of Women's Research and Policy shall perform
17 the following functions:

18 a. Collaborate with other State agencies and affiliated groups,
19 including but not limited to the New Jersey Advisory Commission
20 on the Status of Women, established pursuant to P.L.1974,
21 c.87 (C.52:27D-43.8 et seq.), and the Council on Gender Parity in
22 Labor and Education, established pursuant to P.L.1999,
23 c.223 (C.34:15C-21 et seq.), to address issues that
24 disproportionately or especially affect women;

25 b. Identify gaps in existing data on women, request particular
26 analyses of data on women and disseminate this research to New
27 Jersey policy makers, including government officials and
28 legislators;

29 c. Conduct research by surveys, generate original research by
30 using quantitative and qualitative methods as needed and collect
31 existing data;

32 d. Disseminate information to New Jersey policy makers on a
33 spectrum of issues relevant to women's lives, including but not
34 limited to women's status in the workforce, access to child care and
35 other resources, education equity, violence against women and
36 economic self-sufficiency; and

37 e. Discharge its duties in partnership with the Institute for
38 Women's Leadership at Rutgers, the State University of New
39 Jersey.
40

41 3. The Office of Women's Research and Policy shall be entitled
42 to call upon the services and assistance of State agencies and
43 affiliated groups, and shall have access to all historical records and
44 files, for the proper execution of its duties.
45

46 4. On the effective date of this act, all of the historical records
47 and files of the Commission to Study Sex Discrimination in the

1 Statutes, established pursuant to P.L.1978, c.68, shall be transferred
2 to the Office on Women's Research and Policy.

3
4 5. There shall be established a dedicated and revolving fund
5 called the "Women's Research and Policy Fund" in the Department
6 of the Treasury, and any funds appropriated to or otherwise
7 received by the Office of Women's Research and Policy shall be
8 deposited into that fund. The fund shall be used only for expenses
9 of the Office of Women's Research and Policy. The Director of the
10 Office of Management and Budget shall report to the Office of
11 Women's Research and Policy all transactions involving the fund.
12 There shall be annually appropriated to the fund an amount
13 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

14
15 6. The Office of Women's Research and Policy shall be
16 authorized to accept federal funds for any of its purposes, provided
17 the acceptance of those funds commits no State funds and places no
18 additional obligations on the Legislature of this State. The Office
19 of Women's Research and Policy may apply for and accept
20 foundation grants for specific purposes, and may accept gifts,
21 donations and benefits from individuals and philanthropic
22 organizations.

23
24 7. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$150,000 as
25 initial funding for the Office of Women's Research and Policy.

26
27 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

28
29
30 STATEMENT

31
32 This bill creates the Office of Women's Research and Policy in
33 the Division on Women in the Department of Children and
34 Families. The purpose of the office is to stimulate and encourage
35 throughout the State the study and review of the status of women,
36 and to strengthen family life by directing attention to critical
37 problems confronting women as homemakers, mothers, spouses and
38 workers.

39 The office will perform the following functions: collaborate with
40 other State agencies and affiliated groups, including but not limited
41 to the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women
42 and the Council on Gender Parity in Labor and Education, to
43 address issues that disproportionately or especially affect women;
44 identify gaps in existing data on women, request particular analyses
45 of data on women and disseminate this research to New Jersey
46 policy makers, including government officials and legislators;
47 conduct research by surveys, generate original research by using
48 quantitative and qualitative methods as needed and collect existing

1 data; disseminate information to New Jersey policy makers on a
2 spectrum of issues relevant to women's lives, including but not
3 limited to women's status in the workforce, access to child care and
4 other resources, education equity, violence against women and
5 economic self-sufficiency; and discharge its duties in partnership
6 with the Institute for Women's Leadership at Rutgers University.

7 The Office of Women's Research and Policy will be entitled to
8 call upon the services and assistance of State agencies and affiliated
9 groups, and will have access to all their historical records and files.
10 Additionally, all of the historical records and files of the
11 Commission to Study Sex Discrimination in the Statutes will be
12 transferred to the Office on Women's Research and Policy.

13 The bill also creates the "Women's Research and Policy Fund" in
14 the Department of the Treasury, to receive all funding for the Office
15 of Women's Research and Policy from the State and other sources.
16 The bill authorizes the office to apply for and collect funds from the
17 federal government and other sources in certain cases, and directs
18 that an annual appropriation be made to the fund in an amount
19 necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill. Finally, the bill
20 makes an initial appropriation of \$150,000.