

# HOUSE BILL No. 1555

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 4-23-25; IC 16-19-13-3.

**Synopsis:** Repeal of the commission for women. Repeals the Indiana commission for women. Makes conforming changes.

**Effective:** July 1, 2021.

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## Mayfield

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January 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform.

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First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

# HOUSE BILL No. 1555



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state offices and administration.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 4-23-25 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
- 2 2021]. (Indiana Commission for Women).
- 3 SECTION 2. IC 16-19-13-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
- 4 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 3. The office is
- 5 established for the following purposes:
- 6 (1) To educate and advocate for women's health by requesting that
- 7 the state department, either on its own or in partnership with other
- 8 entities, establish appropriate forums, programs, or initiatives
- 9 designed to educate the public regarding women's health, with an
- 10 emphasis on preventive health and healthy lifestyles.
- 11 (2) To assist the state health commissioner in identifying,
- 12 coordinating, and establishing priorities for programs, services,
- 13 and resources the state should provide for women's health issues
- 14 and concerns relating to the reproductive, menopausal, and
- 15 postmenopausal phases of a woman's life, with an emphasis on
- 16 postmenopausal health.
- 17 (3) To serve as a clearinghouse and resource for information



- 1 regarding women's health data, strategies, services, and programs  
 2 that address women's health issues, including the following:
- 3 (A) Diseases that significantly impact women, including heart  
 4 disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.
  - 5 (B) Menopause.
  - 6 (C) Mental health.
  - 7 (D) Substance abuse.
  - 8 (E) Sexually transmitted diseases.
  - 9 (F) Sexual assault and domestic violence.
- 10 (4) To collect, classify, and analyze relevant research information  
 11 and data conducted or compiled by:
- 12 (A) the state department; or
  - 13 (B) other entities in collaboration with the state department;
- 14 and to provide interested persons with information regarding the  
 15 research results, except as prohibited by law.
- 16 (5) To develop and recommend funding and program activities for  
 17 educating the public on women's health initiatives, including the  
 18 following:
- 19 (A) Health needs throughout a woman's life.
  - 20 (B) Diseases that significantly affect women, including heart  
 21 disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.
  - 22 (C) Access to health care for women.
  - 23 (D) Poverty and women's health.
  - 24 (E) The leading causes of morbidity and mortality for women.
  - 25 (F) Special health concerns of minority women.
- 26 (6) To make recommendations to the state health commissioner  
 27 regarding programs that address women's health issues for  
 28 inclusion in the state department's biennial budget and strategic  
 29 planning.
- 30 (7) To seek funding from private or governmental entities to carry  
 31 out the purposes of this chapter.
- 32 (8) To prepare materials for publication and dissemination to the  
 33 public on women's health.
- 34 (9) To conduct public educational forums in Indiana to raise  
 35 public awareness and to educate citizens about women's health  
 36 programs, issues, and services.
- 37 (10) To coordinate the activities and programs of the office with  
 38 other entities that focus on women's health or women's issues.  
 39 ~~including the Indiana commission for women (IC 4-23-25-3).~~
- 40 (11) To represent the state health commissioner, upon request,  
 41 before the general assembly. ~~and the Indiana commission for  
 42 women established by IC 4-23-25-3.~~



1 (12) To provide an annual report to the governor **and** the  
2 legislative council ~~and the Indiana commission for women~~  
3 regarding the successes of the programs of the office, priorities  
4 and services needed for women's health in Indiana, and areas for  
5 improvement. A report provided under this subdivision to the  
6 legislative council must be in an electronic format under  
7 IC 5-14-6.  
8 This section does not allow the director or any employees of the office  
9 to advocate, promote, refer to, or otherwise advance abortion or  
10 abortifacients.

