

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT CREATING AND PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION TO MAKE A STUDY OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 1955 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE: SPECIFYING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUCH COMMISSION AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES THEREOF.

WHEREAS, the present constitution of this state was adopted by the constitutional convention 1885 when this state had a population of 338,406, and

WHEREAS, the population of this state at the most recent census of 1950 had increased to 2,771,305, and

WHEREAS, science has made tremendous strides in the fields of manufacturing, transportation, communication and allied fields since 1885, so that many of the provisions of the present constitution have become outmoded, and

WHEREAS, a thorough study of all proposals for changes in the present constitution should be made before any general revision is attempted: NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

Section 1. There is hereby created, organized and established a state constitutional advisory commission to be composed of forty-nine (49) members. Seventeen (17) of such members shall be appointed by the Governor, two (2) from each congressional district, and one (1) from the state at large. The member appointed by the Governor from the state at large shall be temporary chairman of such commission and shall serve as such chairman until the commission shall meet and elect a permanent chairman. Sixteen (16) of such members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, two (2) from each congressional district and sixteen (16) members of such commission shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two (2) from each congressional district. Of the members appointed by the President of the Senate, one (1) member from each congressional district may be a member of the Senate and of the members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one (1) member from each congressional district may be a member of the House of Representatives. Vacancies shall be filled promptly on the basis and in the manner of the original appointments.

Section 2. The members of the commission shall assemble in Tallahassee, Florida, in the chamber of the House of Representatives at noon on October 6, 1953, and shall elect a chairman and a secretary and an executive committee. The executive committee shall consist of the chairman and of one (1) member from each congressional district of the state. The executive committee is authorized to set up such procedures as in its judgment are necessary and proper, subject to change or confirmation by the full commission. The executive committee shall

elect a chairman and shall hold meetings upon the call of the chairman with the permission of the executive committee. The executive committee shall also have power to employ such needed personnel as can be employed with the funds appropriated in and by this act.

Section 3. With the approval and consent of the Florida Legislative Council, the members of the commission, in the performance of their duties may be assisted and furnished necessary data, advice and information by the Florida Legislative Reference Bureau. Each member of the commission shall serve without pay but shall receive \$7.50 per day for subsistence and 7½ cents a mile travel allowance when in attendance upon the duly called meetings of the commission or any special committee when away from home.

Section 4. No money hereinafter appropriated or accruing to the constitutional advisory commission may be disbursed by the comptroller except by warrant upon the state treasurer pursuant to vouchers approved by the constitutional advisory commission or its duly authorized agent.

Section 5. For the administration of the provisions of this act there is hereby appropriated from the general revenue fund the sum of \$50,000 which shall be used to defray expenses of the commission including the salaries of research and other personnel and the publication of findings.

Section 6. The commission shall publish a report of its findings to be submitted to the members of the 1955 legislature at least sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the 1955 legislature.

Section 7. Notice of all meetings of the commission shall be mailed to all members thereof by the chairman, at least ten (10) days in advance. A quorum shall consist of twenty-five (25) members.

Section 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 9. This act shall take effect immediately upon its becoming a law.