




Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
EXECUTIVE ORDER

SUBJECT		NUMBER	
Expansion of Commitment Toward Equal Rights		1975-5	
DATE	DISTRIBUTION	BY DIRECTION	
As Amended February 11, 1976	B	 Milton S. Shapp, Governor	

**Commitment Toward Equal Rights**

In furtherance of my commitment to provide leadership in the effort to obtain equal rights for all persons in Pennsylvania, this administration is committed to work towards ending discrimination against persons solely because of their affectional or sexual preference.

**Establishment of a Council for Sexual Minorities**

To further this commitment, there is hereby established the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities.

**1. Composition of Council.**

- a. The Council for Sexual Minorities shall be composed of not more than thirty-five members appointed by the Governor as follows: one representative each from the Departments of Justice, Health, Welfare, and Education, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Office of Administration, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; and representatives of the general public.
- b. The Governor shall designate one member as Chairperson of the Council.
- c. Members of the Council shall serve for terms of one or two years as the Governor shall designate. The Governor shall fill any vacancies which may occur.
- d. Members of the Council from the general public shall serve without salary but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred while attending official Council meetings and performing other official functions as the Chairperson, with the written approval of the Governor's Office, shall prescribe.

**2. Functions.**

- a. The Council shall study problems of sexual minorities and make recommendations to the Governor as to policy and legislative changes needed to further the goal of obtaining equal rights for all persons.
- b. The Council shall work with state agencies to end discrimination against persons solely on the basis of their affectional or sexual preference.
- c. The Council shall work to educate state personnel and the public in general about problems and issues affecting sexual minorities.

d. The Council is authorized to receive complaints from persons claiming that they have been discriminated against on the basis of sexual or affectional preference for the purpose of referring such complaints to an appropriate place for resolution, where possible.

e. The Council shall adopt rules of procedures consistent with the provisions of this Executive Order.

f. The Council shall convene for meetings or hearings at the call of its Chairperson. A majority of appointed members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the Council. A vote of the majority of members present shall be sufficient for all actions of the Council.

g. The Council shall issue an annual report to the Governor.

### **3. Duties of Agencies Under the Governor's Jurisdiction.**

Agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction are hereby directed to cooperate with the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities and to supply the Council with information requested in order that goals of this Executive Order may be realized.





