

Chapter 14

Future Political Status Study Commission

Sections:

- 2.1401 **Creation of a Future Political Status Study Commission and membership.**
- 2.1402 **Functions of the Commission.**
- 2.1403 **Powers of the Commission.**

2.1401 Creation of a Future Political Status Study Commission and membership.

There is created a Future Political Status Study Commission, which shall consist of eleven members:

- (a) Two members shall be chosen from among the Senate membership by the President of the Senate.
- (b) Two members shall be chosen from among the House membership by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (c) The Governor shall appoint 4 members from among the community.
- (d) The Board of Higher Education shall choose one member.
- (e) The Delegate at Large from American Samoa shall choose one member.
- (f) The Chief Justice of the High Court of American Samoa shall choose one member.

The members shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman by majority vote. In no event shall the commission exist beyond December 31, 2006.

History: 1969, PL 11-39; 1970, PL 11-102; 1972, PL 12-47; 2005, PL 29-6; amd PL 29-24, 2006, 2006, PL 29-25.

Reviser's comments: PL 11-39, PL 11-102, PL 12-47 were not codified.

2.1402 Functions of the commission.

- (a) The commission shall study alternative forms of future political status open to American Samoa and shall assess the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- (b) The commission shall study and appraise the history, the development and the present status of political units comparable or relevant to American Samoa, both within and without the jurisdiction of the United States and shall assess the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- (c) To determine whether a single document is needed to set forth American Samoa's political status and relationship with the United States; and
- (d) To study and evaluate the impact of American Samoa's political status and relationship with the United States as to the economic, cultural, land tenure, health, safety and social needs of American Samoa and the need for a comprehensive study to include Swains Island.
- (e) The commission shall present its final complete report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, the Judiciary and the people of American Samoa as soon as possible but no later than December 31, 2006.

History: 1969, PL 11-39; 1970, PL 11-102; 1972, PL 12-47; 2005, PL 29-6; PL 29-24, 2006, 2006, PL 29-25.

Reviser's comments: PL 11-39, PL 11-102, PL 12-47 were not codified.

2.1403 Powers of the Commission.

The Commission shall have power:

(a) To hold hearings, to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses, to order the production of documents and other tangible evidence, to administer oaths, and to cite for contempt;

(b) To employ necessary staff, including consultants, and experts, to purchase necessary materials and supplies, to make necessary publications and to engage in necessary travel within American Samoa and abroad, and to take other necessary action for the performance of the functions assigned in section 2.1402 of this Chapter, respecting functions of the commission.

(c) The basic pay for each member shall be paid, to the extent that amounts are available, \$75 for each day during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the commission.

(d) A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(e) The Chairman shall call the meetings or a majority of the members of the commission shall call any meeting or hearing after the initial meeting of the commission.

History: 1969, PL 11-39; 1970, PL 11-102; 1972, PL 12-47; 2005, PL 29-6.

Reviser's comments: PL 11-39, PL 11-102, PL 12-47 were not codified.