

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION ACT

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SCHEDULE

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION ACT

Act
2 of 2003.

[4th March, 2003.]

1. This Act may be cited as the Early Childhood Commission Act. Short title.
2. In this Act—
 “Commission” means the Commission established by section 3;
 “child” means a child under the age of nine years;
 “early childhood development” includes the education, health, safety and care of children;
 “early childhood institution” means a setting that provides developmentally appropriate care, stimulation, education and socialization for children under the age of six years;
 “functions” includes powers and duties. Interpretation.
- 3.—(1) There shall be established for the purposes of this Act a body to be called the Early Childhood Commission, which shall be a body corporate to which section 28 of the Interpretation Act shall apply. Establishment of the Early Childhood Commission.
- (2) The provisions of the Schedule shall have effect as to the constitution and procedure of the Commission and otherwise in relation thereto. Schedule.
- 4.—(1) The Commission shall perform the following functions— Functions of the Commission.
- (a) advise the Minister on policy matters relating to early childhood care, education and development in Jamaica, including initiatives and actions to achieve national early childhood development goals;
- (b) assist in the preparation of plans and programmes concerning early childhood development;

- (c) monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plans and programmes referred to in paragraph (b) and, in respect thereof, make to the Minister such recommendations as it thinks fit;
- (d) act as a co-ordinating agency to ensure effective streamlining of all activities relating to early childhood development;
- (e) convene consultations with relevant stakeholders as appropriate;
- (f) analyse resource needs and submit recommendations for budgetary allocations for early childhood development;
- (g) identify alternative financing through negotiation with donor agencies and liaise with such agencies to ensure effective and efficient use of donor funds;
- (h) supervise and regulate early childhood institutions.

(2) The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, impose charges for the use of any facility or services provided by it.

(3) For the purposes of the discharge of its functions under subsection (1), the Commission shall—

- (a) submit to the Minister an annual report relating generally to the execution of its duties;
- (b) collect such information and data, in relation to early childhood development services, as may be prescribed;
- (c) enter into contracts with national and international agencies;
- (d) establish, maintain and deliver public awareness programmes for early childhood development; and
- (e) produce and publish materials on all aspects of early childhood development.

5.—(1) The Commission shall appoint and employ, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, an Executive Director who shall hold office for a period not exceeding four years and may be reappointed for periods not exceeding four years at a time.

Appoint-
ment of
Executive
Director
and other
officers and
employees.

(2) The Executive Director shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Commission.

(3) The Commission may appoint and employ, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, such other officers and employees as it thinks necessary for the proper carrying out of the provisions of this Act:

Provided that, except with the prior approval of the Minister—

- (a) no salary in excess of the prescribed rate shall be assigned to any post; and
- (b) no appointment shall be made to any post to which a salary in excess of the prescribed rate is assigned.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3) the “prescribed rate” shall be such rate as the Minister may prescribe by order subject to affirmative resolution.

(5) The Governor-General may, subject to such conditions as he may impose, approve the appointment of any officer in the service of the Government to any office with the Commission and any officer so appointed shall, while so employed, in relation to other rights as a public officer be treated as continuing in the service of the Government.

(6) It shall be lawful for the Commission, with the approval of the Minister—

- (a) to enter into arrangements respecting schemes, whether by way of insurance policies or not; or
- (b) to make regulations,

for pensions, gratuities and other retiring or disability or death benefits relating to members and employees of the Commission and such arrangements or regulations may include provisions for the grant of benefits to the dependants and legal personal representatives of such members or employees.

Delegation
of power by
Executive
Director.

6.—(1) The Executive Director may in writing, with the approval of the Commission, delegate any of his powers or the performance of any duties conferred on him by or under this Act to a person specified in the instrument of delegation.

(2) A delegation under subsection (1) shall not prevent the exercise of the powers or the performance of the duties by the Executive Director.

Ministerial
directions.

7. The Minister may, after consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, give to the Commission directions of a general character as to the policy to be followed by the Commission in the performance of its functions in relation to matters appearing to the Minister to concern the public interest.

Funds and
resources of
the Commis-
sion.

8. The funds and resources of the Commission shall consist of—

- (a) such sums as may be provided by Parliament for the Commission in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure;
- (b) revenues from charges imposed by the Commission for the use of any facility or services provided by it;
- (c) such sums as may be allocated from time to time to the Commission from loan funds;
- (d) sums borrowed by the Commission for the purpose of meeting any of its obligations or discharging any of its functions;
- (e) all other sums or property which may in any manner become payable to or vested in the Commission in respect of any matter incidental to its functions.