



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 479

January Session, 2003

Substitute House Bill No. 6657

House of Representatives, April 22, 2003

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. O'ROURKE of the 32nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION AND THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) There is established a Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs
4 Commission. The initial appointees shall include all members of the
5 Governor's Council for Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs established by
6 Executive Order No. Ten of Governor Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. The terms
7 of such initial appointees shall expire on January 31, 1995.

8 (b) On and after February 1, 1995, the commission shall consist of
9 thirteen members, appointed as follows: (1) Three by the Governor,
10 one of whom shall serve for a term of one year from said February first
11 and have expertise in the field of education, one of whom shall serve

12 for a term of two years from said February first and have expertise in
13 the field of human services, and one of whom shall serve for a term of
14 three years from said February first and have expertise in the fields of
15 small business and economic development, and each of whom
16 thereafter shall serve for terms of three years from February first in the
17 year of their appointment and have expertise in the field of the
18 member's predecessor; (2) two by the president pro tempore of the
19 Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in the field of children and
20 youth development and one of whom shall have expertise in the field
21 of health; (3) one by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a
22 member of the public; (4) two by the minority leader of the Senate, one
23 of whom shall have expertise in the field of environment and one of
24 whom shall have expertise in the field of arts and culture; (5) two by
25 the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall have
26 expertise in the field of housing and one of whom shall have expertise
27 in the field of public safety; (6) one by the majority leader of the House
28 of Representatives, who shall be a member of the public; and (7) two
29 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom
30 shall have expertise in the field of transportation and one of whom
31 shall be a member of the public. All members appointed under this
32 subsection shall have experience in the field of Latino and Puerto
33 Rican affairs. All members appointed under subdivision (2), (3), (4),
34 (5), (6) or (7) of this subsection shall serve for terms of two years from
35 February first in the year of their appointment. The commission shall
36 elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members.
37 Any person absent from (A) three consecutive meetings of the
38 commission, or (B) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar
39 year shall be deemed to have resigned from the commission, effective
40 immediately. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by the
41 appointing authority. Members of the commission shall serve without
42 compensation but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
43 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
44 their duties. The commission shall meet as often as deemed necessary
45 by the chairperson or a majority of the commission.

46 (c) The commission shall:

47 (1) Review and comment on any proposed state legislation and
48 regulations that would affect the Latino and Puerto Rican populations
49 in the state and provide to the members of the General Assembly
50 copies of any such comments;

51 (2) Advise and provide information to the Governor and the
52 General Assembly on the state's policies concerning the Latino and
53 Puerto Rican communities;

54 (3) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the
55 coordination and administration of state programs serving the Latino
56 and Puerto Rican populations;

57 (4) Maintain a liaison between the Latino and Puerto Rican
58 communities and governmental entities;

59 (5) Encourage Latino and Puerto Rican representation at all levels of
60 state government, including state boards and commissions;

61 (6) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and
62 contributions of Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state; and

63 (7) Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning
64 its activities with any appropriate recommendations concerning the
65 Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state.

66 (d) The commission may use such funds as may be available from
67 federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out
68 the purposes of this section.

69 (e) The commission may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67,
70 employ any necessary staff within available appropriations.

71 (f) On and after February 1, 1995, the commission shall be part of the
72 Legislative Department.

73 Sec. 2. Section 2-121 of the general statutes is repealed and the
74 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

75 (a) There is established an African-American Affairs Commission.
76 The commission shall consist of thirteen members, appointed as
77 follows: (1) Three by the Governor, one of whom shall serve for a term
78 of one year from July 1, 1997, and have expertise in the field of
79 education, one of whom shall serve for a term of two years from July 1,
80 1997, and have expertise in the field of human services, and one of
81 whom shall serve for a term of three years from July 1, 1997, and have
82 expertise in the fields of small business and economic development,
83 and each of whom thereafter shall serve for terms of three years from
84 October first in the year of their appointment and have expertise in the
85 field of the member's predecessor; (2) two by the president pro
86 tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in the field of
87 children and youth development and one of whom shall have
88 expertise in the field of health; (3) one by the majority leader of the
89 Senate, who shall be a member of the public; (4) two by the minority
90 leader of the Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in the field of
91 environment and one of whom shall have expertise in the field of arts
92 and culture; (5) two by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
93 one of whom shall have expertise in the field of housing and one of
94 whom shall have expertise in the field of public safety; (6) one by the
95 majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a
96 member of the public; and (7) two by the minority leader of the House
97 of Representatives, one of whom shall have expertise in the field of
98 transportation and one of whom shall be a member of the public. All
99 members appointed under this subsection shall have experience in the
100 field of African-American affairs. All members appointed under
101 subdivision (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of this subsection shall serve for
102 terms of two years from October first in the year of their appointment.
103 The commission shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from
104 among its members. Any person absent from (A) three consecutive
105 meetings of the commission or (B) fifty per cent of such meetings
106 during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the
107 commission, effective immediately. Vacancies on the commission shall
108 be filled by the appointing authority. Members of the commission shall
109 serve without compensation but shall, within the limits of available

110 funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the
111 performance of their duties. The commission shall meet as often as
112 deemed necessary by the chairperson or a majority of the commission.

113 (b) The commission shall:

114 (1) Review and comment on any proposed state legislation and
115 regulations that would affect the African-American population in the
116 state and provide to the members of the General Assembly copies of
117 any such comments;

118 (2) Advise and provide information to the Governor and the
119 General Assembly on the state's policies concerning the African-
120 American communities;

121 (3) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the
122 coordination and administration of state programs serving the African-
123 American population;

124 (4) Maintain a liaison between the African-American communities
125 and governmental entities;

126 (5) Encourage African-American representation at all levels of state
127 government, including state boards and commissions;

128 (6) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and
129 contributions of the African-American population of the state; and

130 (7) Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning
131 its activities with any appropriate recommendations concerning the
132 African-American population of the state.

133 (c) The commission may use such funds as may be available from
134 federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out
135 the purposes of this section.

136 (d) The commission may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67,
137 employ any necessary staff within available appropriations.

138 (e) The commission shall be part of the Legislative Department.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Lat. & P.R. Affairs Com.; Afr.-Amer. Affairs Com.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and the African American Affairs Commission to provide information to the General Assembly on state policies, and the coordination and administration of programs affecting the populations served by the commissions. Since these commissions currently provide such information to the Governor it is anticipated that providing this information to the General Assembly will have no fiscal impact on the commissions.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6657

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION AND THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs and African-American Affairs commissions to make available to the General Assembly information on Latino and Puerto Rican and African-American populations, respectively, in the state. Specifically, they must give legislators copies of any comments they make on proposed state legislation or regulations that would affect these populations.

They must also:

1. advise and provide information to the legislature, just as they currently do the governor, on state policies concerning these populations, and
2. advise the legislature, just as they currently do the governor, on the coordination and administration of state programs serving them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0