



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 6657

LCO No. 4127

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN 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 Section 2-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 submit a report to the General Assembly on its review
50 and recommendations in accordance with subsection (d) of this
51 section;

52 (2) Advise and provide information to the Governor on the state's
53 policies concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican communities, and
54 submit a report to the General Assembly on such advice and
55 information in accordance with subsection (d) of this section;

56 (3) Advise the Governor concerning the coordination and
57 administration of state programs serving the Latino and Puerto Rican
58 populations, and submit a report to the General Assembly on such
59 advice in accordance with subsection (d) of this section;

60 (4) Maintain a liaison between the Latino and Puerto Rican
61 communities and governmental entities, including, but not limited to,
62 the General Assembly, with priority given to members of the General
63 Assembly who represent one or more Latino or Puerto Rican
64 communities;

65 (5) Encourage Latino and Puerto Rican representation at all levels of
66 state government, including state boards and commissions, and
67 maintain an accessible list of prospective appointees who are members
68 of the Latino or Puerto Rican community;

69 (6) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and
70 contributions of Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state;
71 [and]

72 (7) Work in partnership with members of the General Assembly
73 who represent one or more Latino or Puerto Rican communities for the
74 purpose of establishing an annual plan of short-term and long-term
75 initiatives based on the needs of the Latino and Puerto Rican
76 community; and

77 [(7)] (8) Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report
78 concerning its activities with any appropriate recommendations
79 concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state.

80 (d) Any report required to be submitted to the General Assembly
81 under subsection (c) of this section shall be submitted annually, not
82 later than March first. Such report shall be submitted in accordance
83 with section 11-4a.

84 [(d)] (e) The commission may use such funds as may be available
85 from federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to
86 carry out the purposes of this section.

87 [(e)] (f) The commission may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67,
88 employ any necessary staff within available appropriations.

89 [(f)] (g) On and after February 1, 1995, the commission shall be part
90 of the Legislative Department.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

Statement of Purpose:

To provide that certain information currently provided by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission to the Governor be provided to the General Assembly and to revise the duties of the commission.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]