



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6657**

*January Session, 2003*

**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 Section 2-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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.*

**LM**        *Joint Favorable*