



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 6002

LCO No. 5447

05447HB06002GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There is established
2 an Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. The commission shall
3 consist of thirteen members, appointed as follows: (1) Three by the
4 Governor, one of whom shall serve for a term of one year from October
5 1, 2007, and have expertise in the field of education, one of whom shall
6 serve for a term of two years from October 1, 2007, and have expertise
7 in the field of human services, and one of whom shall serve for a term
8 of three years from October 1, 2007, and have expertise in the fields of
9 small business and economic development, and each of whom
10 thereafter shall serve for terms of three years from October first in the
11 year of their appointment and have expertise in the field of the
12 member's predecessor; (2) two by the president pro tempore of the
13 Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in the field of children and
14 youth development and one of whom shall have expertise in the field
15 of health; (3) one by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a
16 member of the public; (4) two by the minority leader of the Senate, one

17 of whom shall have expertise in the field of environment and one of
18 whom shall have expertise in the field of arts and culture; (5) two by
19 the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall have
20 expertise in the field of housing and one of whom shall have expertise
21 in the field of public safety; (6) one by the majority leader of the House
22 of Representatives, who shall be a member of the public; and (7) two
23 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom
24 shall have expertise in the field of transportation and one of whom
25 shall be a member of the public. All members appointed under this
26 subsection shall have experience in the field of Asian Pacific American
27 affairs. All members appointed under subdivision (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or
28 (7) of this subsection shall serve for terms of two years from October
29 first in the year of their appointment. The commission shall elect a
30 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members. Any
31 person absent from (A) three consecutive meetings of the commission,
32 or (B) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar year shall be
33 deemed to have resigned from the commission, effective immediately.
34 Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by the appointing
35 authority. Members of the commission shall serve without
36 compensation but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
37 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
38 their duties. The commission shall meet as often as deemed necessary
39 by the chairperson or a majority of the commission.

40 (b) The commission shall:

41 (1) Work in consultation with the respective state agency to develop
42 plans and programs that address each of the following areas as they
43 affect the Asian Pacific American community: (A) Mental health, (B)
44 economic development, (C) workplace justice and equality, (D)
45 immigration, (E) education, (F) English language instruction, (G)
46 international trade, and (H) economic cooperation with Asian
47 countries;

48 (2) In consultation with the joint committee of the General Assembly

49 having cognizance of matters relating to legislative management,
50 establish a plan of short-term and long-term initiatives based on the
51 needs of the community of Asian Pacific descent;

52 (3) Review, comment and testify on any proposed state legislation and
53 regulations that would affect the Asian Pacific American population in
54 the state;

55 (4) Advise and provide information to the Governor and the
56 General Assembly on the state's policies concerning the Asian Pacific
57 American communities;

58 (5) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the
59 coordination and administration of state programs serving the Asian
60 Pacific American population;

61 (6) Maintain a liaison between the Asian Pacific American
62 communities and governmental entities, including, but not limited to,
63 the General Assembly;

64 (7) Encourage Asian Pacific American representation at all levels of
65 state government, including state boards and commissions, and
66 support the development of such representatives in addition to
67 maintaining an accessible list of prospective appointees who are
68 members of the Asian Pacific American community;

69 (8) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and
70 contributions of the Asian Pacific American population of the state;
71 and

72 (9) Prepare and submit to the Governor and General Assembly an
73 annual report concerning its activities with any appropriate
74 recommendations concerning the Asian Pacific American population
75 of the state.

76 (c) The commission may use such funds as may be available from
77 federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out

78 the purposes of this section.

79 (d) The commission may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of
80 the general statutes, employ any necessary staff within available
81 appropriations.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2007	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To understand and support the important and unique needs of Connecticut's rapidly growing Asian Pacific American population.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. TONG, 147th Dist.; REP. REYNOLDS, 42nd Dist.
REP. OLSON, 46th Dist.; SEN. HARRIS, 5th Dist.
REP. MCCLUSKEY, 20th Dist.

H.B. 6002