



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 9

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5321

House of Representatives, March 6, 2008

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. CARUSO of the 126th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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, 2008*) (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, 2008, and have expertise in the field of education, one of whom shall
6 serve for a term of two years from October 1, 2008, 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, 2008, 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) Develop a plan prior to the beginning of each legislative session
42 that outlines the commission's priorities for the session and strategies
43 to accomplish each priority;

44 (2) Work in consultation with the respective state agency to develop
45 plans and programs that address each of the following areas as they
46 affect the Asian Pacific American community including, but not
47 limited to: (A) Access to health care, (B) housing, (C) job training, (D)

48 access to the legal system, (E) mental health and addiction services, (F)
49 economic development, (G) workplace justice and equality, (H)
50 immigration, (I) education, (J) English language instruction, (K)
51 international trade, and (L) economic cooperation with Asian
52 countries;

53 (3) In consultation with the joint committee of the General Assembly
54 having cognizance of matters relating to legislative management,
55 establish a plan of short-term and long-term initiatives based on the
56 needs of the community of Asian Pacific descent;

57 (4) Review, comment and testify on any proposed state legislation
58 and regulations that would affect the Asian Pacific American
59 population in the state;

60 (5) Advise and provide information to the Governor and the
61 General Assembly on the state's policies concerning the Asian Pacific
62 American communities;

63 (6) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the
64 coordination and administration of state programs serving the Asian
65 Pacific American population;

66 (7) Maintain a liaison between the Asian Pacific American
67 communities and governmental entities, including, but not limited to,
68 the General Assembly;

69 (8) Promote the political empowerment of the Asian Pacific
70 American community through voter registration, voting rights and
71 citizenship training;

72 (9) Support the state's efforts to develop international trade and
73 cross-border economic cooperation with the countries of Asia and the
74 Pacific Rim;

75 (10) Support state efforts to develop effective foreign language and
76 cultural programs for educational and economic development
77 purposes;

78 (11) Encourage Asian Pacific American representation at all levels of
79 state government, including state boards and commissions, and
80 support the development of such representatives in addition to
81 maintaining an accessible list of prospective appointees who are
82 members of the Asian Pacific American community;

83 (12) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and
84 contributions of the Asian Pacific American population of the state;
85 and

86 (13) Prepare and submit to the Governor and General Assembly an
87 annual report concerning its activities with any appropriate
88 recommendations concerning the Asian Pacific American population
89 of the state.

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

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

96 (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, 2008	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable*

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Asian Pacific American Affairs Comm.	GF - Cost	130,000	205,000
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits) ¹	GF - Cost	28,500	88,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes an Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission within the Legislative Department.

To carryout the commission’s duties and responsibilities will require two full-time positions; an executive director (\$100,000 salary annualized) and an administrative assistant (\$50,000 salary annualized). Additionally, the commission will need \$25,000 in Other Expenses² and \$5,000 in Equipment in FY 09. The total commission costs are estimated to be \$130,000 in FY 09 (based on the commission being operational for 9 months) and \$205,000 in FY 10.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

¹ The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller. The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) computes only the fringe benefit recovery rate for the state pensions systems. The FY 08 rate for State Employees Retirement System - regular employees is 33.27%. The first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs. The estimated first year fringe benefit rate as a percentage of payroll is 25.36%.

² The 2007-2009 biennial budget provides \$25,000 in Other Expenses funding in FY 09.

continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5321*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a 13-member Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission within the Legislative Department.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

DUTIES

The bill requires the 13-member commission to:

1. develop a plan before each legislative session that outlines the commission's priorities for the session and strategies for accomplishing them;
2. work with state agencies to develop plans and programs for addressing areas that affect the Asian Pacific American community, including health care access, housing, job training, access to the legal system, mental health and addiction services, economic development, workplace justice and equality, immigration, education, English language instruction, international trade, and economic cooperation with Asian countries;
3. work with the Legislative Management Committee to establish a plan of short- and long-term initiatives based on the needs of people of Asian Pacific descent;
4. review, comment, and testify on any proposed state legislation and regulations that would affect the state's Asian Pacific American population;
5. advise and provide information to the governor and legislature on the state's policies concerning Asian Pacific American communities;
6. advise the governor and legislature on the coordination and administration of state programs that serve these communities;
7. maintain a liaison between the communities and governmental entities;

8. promote the political empowerment of the communities through voter registration, voting rights, and citizenship training;
9. encourage the communities' representation at all levels of state government, including state boards and commissions, and help develop these representatives, including by maintaining an accessible list of prospective appointees;
10. secure appropriate recognition of their accomplishments and contributions to the state;
11. support the state's efforts to develop international trade and cross-border economic cooperation with Asia and the Pacific Rim;
12. support state efforts to develop effective foreign language and cultural programs for education and economic development; and
13. prepare and submit to the governor and legislature an annual report on the commission's activities with any appropriate recommendations concerning the state's Asian Pacific American population.

The bill authorizes the commission to (1) use any available funds and enter into contracts to carry out its purposes and (2) employ necessary staff in compliance with the State Personnel Act.

MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

The governor appoints three members, the Senate president pro tempore and minority leader and the House speaker and minority leader each appoint two members, and the Senate and House majority leaders each appoint one member. The members must have experience in Asian Pacific American affairs and either represent the public or have expertise in the following areas:

Appointing Authority	Areas of Expertise
Governor	Education Human services Small business and economic development
Senate president pro	Children and youth

tempore	development Health
Senate majority leader	Public
Senate minority leader	Environment Arts and culture
House speaker	Housing Public safety
House majority leader	Public
House minority leader	Transportation Public

The governor’s initial appointees serve staggered terms (one year for the education expert; two for the human services expert; and three for the small business and economic development expert). Thereafter, all gubernatorial appointees serve three-year terms beginning on October 1 and must have expertise in the same fields as their predecessors. All legislative appointees serve two-year terms. The appointing authority fills vacancies.

The commission elects its own chairperson and vice-chairperson from its members and meets as often as the chairperson or a commission majority deems necessary. Members are considered to have resigned if they miss three consecutive meetings or half the meetings in a calendar year.

Commission members are not paid; however, they may be reimbursed for necessary expenses they incur while performing their duties.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable
 Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/25/2008)

