



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5321

LCO No. 922

* _____HB05321GAE___022608_____*

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, 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	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable*