



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 5321**

LCO No. 922

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB05321APP \_\_\_ 040108 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

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*

**APP**      *Joint Favorable*