



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 681**

February Session, 2008

\* SB00681APP 042408 \*

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
2 Minority Health Advisory Commission that shall work to eliminate the  
3 disparities in health status among the state's multicultural,  
4 multilingual and multiethnic communities. Additionally, such council  
5 shall work for an overall improvement of the quality of health for state  
6 residents. Such council shall consist of the following commissioners, or  
7 their designees, and public members: (1) The Commissioners of Public  
8 Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental  
9 Services, Social Services, Correction, Children and Families, and  
10 Education; (2) the dean of The University of Connecticut Health  
11 Center, or his designee; (3) the codirectors of The University of  
12 Connecticut Health Center and Center for Public Health and Health  
13 Policy, or their designees; (4) the dean of the Yale University Medical  
14 School, or his designee; (5) the dean of Public Health and the School of  
15 Epidemiology at Yale University, or his designee; (6) one member  
16 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a  
17 member of an affiliate of the National Urban League; (7) one member  
18 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall  
19 be a member of the National Association for the Advancement of  
20 Colored People; (8) one member appointed by the majority leader of

21 the House of Representatives, who shall be a member of the Black and  
22 Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly; (9) one member  
23 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate with the advice of the  
24 Native American Heritage Advisory Council or the chairperson of the  
25 Indian Affairs Council, who shall be a representative of the Native  
26 American community; (10) one member appointed by the minority  
27 leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an advocacy  
28 group for Hispanics; (11) one member appointed by the minority  
29 leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative  
30 of the state-wide Multicultural Health Network; (12) the chairperson of  
31 the African-American Affairs Commission, or his or her designee; (13)  
32 the chairperson of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, or  
33 his or her designee; (14) the chairperson of the Permanent Commission  
34 on the Status of Women, or his or her designee; and (15) eight  
35 members of the public, representing diverse multicultural,  
36 multilingual, and multiethnic backgrounds, who shall be appointed as  
37 follows: Two by the president pro tempore of the Senate, two by the  
38 speaker of the House of Representatives, two by the minority leader of  
39 the Senate, and two by the minority leader of the House of  
40 Representatives. Vacancies on the council shall be filled by the  
41 appointing authority.

42 (b) The commission shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson  
43 from among its members. Any member absent from either: (1) Three  
44 consecutive meetings of the commission, or (2) fifty per cent of such  
45 meetings during any calendar year, shall be deemed to have resigned  
46 from the commission.

47 (c) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation,  
48 but within available appropriations, and shall be reimbursed for  
49 expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

50 (d) The commission shall meet as often as necessary as determined  
51 by the chairperson or a majority of the commission.

52 (e) The commission shall: (1) Review and comment on any proposed

53 state legislation and regulations that would affect the health of  
54 multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic populations in the state;  
55 (2) review and comment on the Department of Public Health's health  
56 disparities performance measures; (3) advise and provide information  
57 to the Governor and the General Assembly on the state's policies  
58 concerning the health of the multicultural, multilingual, and  
59 multiethnic communities in the state; (4) work as a liaison between the  
60 multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic communities and state  
61 agencies in order to eliminate health disparities; (5) evaluate the  
62 impact of programs in the Departments of Public Health, Social  
63 Services, Children and Families, Developmental Services and  
64 Education to eliminate such health disparities; (6) prepare and submit  
65 to the Governor and General Assembly an annual report, in  
66 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, that provides  
67 both a retrospective and prospective view of health disparities and the  
68 state's efforts to ameliorate identifiable disparities among the  
69 multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic populations of the state;  
70 and (7) explore other successful programs in other sectors and states  
71 and pilot new creative programs that may diminish or contribute to  
72 the elimination of health disparities in the state.

73 (f) The commission may use such funds as may be available from  
74 federal, state or other sources, and may enter into contracts to carry out  
75 the provisions of this section.

76 (g) The commission may, within available appropriations and  
77 subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of the general statutes, employ  
78 any necessary staff.

79 (h) The commission shall be within the Office of the Health Care  
80 Advocate for administrative purposes only.

81 (i) The commission shall report to the Governor and the General  
82 Assembly on its findings not later than June 1, 2010.

83 (j) The commission shall make a determination as to whether the  
84 duties of the commission are duplicated by any other state agency,

85 office, bureau or commission and shall include information concerning  
86 any such duplication or performance of similar duties by any other  
87 state agency, office, bureau or commission in the report described in  
88 subsection (i) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**PH**        *Joint Favorable*

**APP**      *Joint Favorable*