



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 31**

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 178

*Senate, March 22, 2018*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist. and SEN. MCLACHLAN, M. of the 24th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT DECREASING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 2-127 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a Commission on Equity and Opportunity  
4 which shall be part of the Legislative Department. The commission  
5 shall focus on issues affecting each of the following underrepresented  
6 and underserved populations: African Americans, Asian Pacific  
7 Americans, and Latinos and Puerto Ricans. The Commission on Equity  
8 and Opportunity shall constitute a successor to the African-American  
9 Affairs Commission, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and  
10 Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission in accordance with the  
11 provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, and subsection (f) of  
12 section 4-38d and section 4-38e.

13 (b) The Commission on Equity and Opportunity shall consist of  
14 [sixty-three] the following members; [, as follows:]

15 (1) With respect to members appointed prior to July 1, 2016, to serve  
16 on either the African-American Affairs Commission, Latino and Puerto  
17 Rican Affairs Commission or Asian Pacific American Affairs  
18 Commission and whose term has not expired as of July 1, 2016, such  
19 members shall be deemed appointed to serve on the Commission on  
20 Equity and Opportunity until the expiration of the term of the member  
21 on such former commission, [or] the occurrence of a vacancy or June  
22 30, 2018, whichever occurs first. Upon the expiration of any such  
23 member's term or the occurrence of a vacancy on or after July 1, 2018,  
24 the vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority who made the  
25 original appointment, except such appointment shall be made in  
26 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

27 (2) [With respect to members appointed on or] On and after July 1,  
28 [2016, to serve on] 2018, the Commission on Equity and Opportunity [,  
29 such] shall consist of thirty-nine members, [shall be] appointed as  
30 follows:

31 (A) [Nine] Three members appointed by a joint appointment of the  
32 speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore  
33 of the Senate, [three] one of whom [have] has experience in the field of  
34 African-American affairs, [three] one of whom [have] has experience in  
35 the field of Asian Pacific-American affairs and [three] one of whom  
36 [have] has experience in the field of Latino and Puerto Rican affairs,  
37 provided at least [three] one of such members shall also be from the  
38 central region of the state;

39 (B) [Nine] Six members appointed by the president pro tempore of  
40 the Senate, [three] two of whom have experience in the field of  
41 African-American affairs, [three] two of whom have experience in the  
42 field of Asian Pacific-American affairs and [three] two of whom have  
43 experience in the field of Latino and Puerto Rican affairs, provided at  
44 least [three] two of such members shall also be from the northeastern  
45 region of the state;

46 (C) [Nine] Six members appointed by the speaker of the House of  
47 Representatives, [three] two of whom have experience in the field of  
48 African-American affairs, [three] two of whom have experience in the  
49 field of Asian Pacific-American affairs and [three] two of whom have  
50 experience in the field of Latino and Puerto Rican affairs, provided at  
51 least [three] two of such members shall also be from the southeastern  
52 region of the state;

53 (D) [Nine] Six members appointed by the majority leader of the  
54 Senate, [three] two of whom have experience in the field of African-  
55 American affairs, [three] two of whom have experience in the field of  
56 Asian Pacific-American affairs and [three] two of whom have  
57 experience in the field of Latino and Puerto Rican affairs;

58 (E) [Nine] Six members appointed by the majority leader of the  
59 House of Representatives, [three] two of whom have experience in the  
60 field of African-American affairs, [three] two of whom have experience  
61 in the field of Asian Pacific-American affairs and [three] two of whom  
62 have experience in the field of Latino and Puerto Rican affairs;

63 (F) [Nine] Six members appointed by the minority leader of the  
64 Senate, [three] two of whom have experience in the field of African-  
65 American affairs, [three] two of whom have experience in the field of  
66 Asian Pacific-American affairs and [three] two of whom have  
67 experience in the field of Latino and Puerto Rican affairs, provided at  
68 least [three] two of such members shall also be from the northwestern  
69 region of the state; and

70 (G) [Nine] Six members appointed by the minority leader of the  
71 House of Representatives, [three] two of whom have experience in the  
72 field of African-American affairs, [three] two of whom have experience  
73 in the field of Asian Pacific-American affairs and [three] two of whom  
74 have experience in the field of Latino and Puerto Rican affairs,  
75 provided at least [three] two of such members shall also be from the  
76 southwestern region of the state.

77 (H) In the event of a vacancy for any member appointed pursuant to

78 this subdivision, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointing  
79 authority.

80 (c) All initial appointments to the commission, other than  
81 appointments made pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of  
82 this section, shall be made not later than July 31, 2016, and the term of  
83 such initial members shall terminate on June 30, 2018, regardless of  
84 when the initial appointment was made. The speaker of the House of  
85 Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall  
86 jointly select the chairperson of the commission from among the  
87 members of the commission. Such chairperson shall schedule the first  
88 meeting of the commission.

89 (d) Members of the commission appointed on or after July 1, 2018,  
90 shall serve for two-year terms which shall commence on the date of  
91 appointment. Members shall continue to serve until their successors  
92 are appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.  
93 Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled  
94 for the balance of the unexpired term. The members of the commission  
95 shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the limits of  
96 available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the  
97 performance of their duties.

98 (e) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the  
99 transaction of any business. The commission shall meet as often as  
100 deemed necessary by the chairperson or a majority of the commission.  
101 Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings  
102 or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any  
103 calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the commission.

104 (f) The commission shall have no authority over staffing or  
105 personnel matters. There shall be an executive director of the  
106 commission. The executive director and any necessary staff shall be  
107 employed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, which  
108 shall have authority over the hiring, termination and performance  
109 review of the executive director and any staff.

110 (g) The commission shall be organized into three policy divisions,  
111 one of which shall advise on policies affecting members of the African-  
112 American population, one of which shall advise on policies affecting  
113 members of the Asian Pacific-American population and one of which  
114 shall advise on policies affecting members of the Latino and Puerto  
115 Rican population.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	2-127

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

---

***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

This bill reduces the Commission on Equity and Opportunity's membership from 63 members to 39. This will not have a fiscal impact.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 178*****AN ACT DECREASING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill reduces the total membership of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO) from 63 to 39. To accomplish this, it reduces the total (1) appointments by each of the six legislative leaders from nine to six and (2) joint appointments by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore from nine to three.

By law, a minimum number of the total appointments must be from a specified region of the state (e.g., currently, at least three of the House minority leader's nine appointments must be from the state's southwestern region). The bill reduces the required number of these geographic appointments from (1) at least three to at least two for each legislative leader other than the Senate and House majority leader, who are not subject to the requirement, and (2) at least three to at least one for joint appointments by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore.

Under existing law and the bill, current members' terms expire on June 30, 2018. The next term begins on July 1, 2018, which is when the reduction in membership occurs under the bill.

By law, appointing authorities must allocate their appointments evenly across the commission's three constituencies (i.e., African Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, and Latinos and Puerto Ricans) and fill vacancies. Members serve two-year terms.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

**CEO**

By law, the CEO focuses on issues affecting its three constituencies and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and governor on new or enhanced policies, programs, and services that foster progress in achieving desired quality of life results. In addition, the commission conducts educational and outreach activities to raise awareness of and address critical issues for its constituencies.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/09/2018)