
SENATE BILL 5740 - CC

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Anderson, Thorsness, Gaspard, Bailey, Snyder, Conner, Moore, Rinehart, Bauer, Wojahn, Murray, Pelz, Jesernig, Talmadge, Williams, Sutherland, Matson, Niemi, Stratton and Roach; by request of Comm. on African-American Affairs.

Read first time February 19, 1991. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a commission on African-American
2 affairs; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature declares that the public
5 policy of this state is to ensure equal opportunity for all of its
6 citizens. The legislature finds that African-Americans have unique and
7 special problems. It is the purpose of this act to improve the well-
8 being of African-Americans by ensuring their access to participation in
9 the fields of government, business, education, law, and other areas.
10 The legislature is particularly concerned with the plight of those
11 African-Americans who, for economic or social reasons, find themselves
12 disadvantaged or isolated from the benefits of equal opportunity. The
13 legislature further finds that it is necessary to aid African-Americans
14 in obtaining governmental services to promote the health, safety, and
15 welfare of all residents of this state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is established a Washington state
2 commission on African-American affairs in the office of the governor.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The commission shall consist of nine
4 members appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be designated by
5 the governor as chairperson of the commission. In making appointments,
6 the governor shall give due consideration to recommendations submitted
7 by local communities and the commission. The governor shall consider
8 nominations for membership based upon maintaining a balanced
9 distribution of geographic, sex, age, and occupational representation,
10 where practicable.

11 (2) Appointments shall be for three years, except in the case of a
12 vacancy the appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired
13 term for which the vacancy occurs. The members shall hold office
14 commencing July 1, 1991. Of the initial appointees, three shall serve
15 three-year terms, three shall serve two-year terms, and three shall
16 serve a one-year term.

17 (3) Members shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses
18 incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW
19 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

20 (4) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the
21 purpose of conducting business.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The commission shall:

23 (a) Elect officers necessary to form an executive committee;

24 (b) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW;

25 (c) Meet at the call of the chair or the call of a majority of its
26 members, but in no case less often than once during every three-month
27 period; and

1 (d) Be authorized to appoint citizen task forces as it deems
2 appropriate.

3 (2) The governor shall appoint an executive director who shall
4 serve at the pleasure of the governor.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The executive director shall employ a
6 staff, who shall be state employees under Title 41 RCW, and prescribe
7 their duties as necessary to implement the purposes of this act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The commission shall examine and define
9 issues pertaining to the rights and needs of African-Americans, and
10 make recommendations to the governor and state agencies with respect to
11 desirable changes in program and law, especially in the areas of
12 education, employment, economic development, and health care.

13 (2) The commission shall further maintain a liaison between the
14 African-American community and government entities and advise the
15 legislature and state agencies on the development and implementation of
16 comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing on
17 the unique problems and needs of African-Americans.

18 (3) The commission shall further develop and maintain a continuous
19 dialogue with African-American citizens throughout the state of
20 Washington.

21 (4) The commission shall submit to the governor, not less often
22 than once each year, a report delineating the issues and concerns of
23 African-Americans in the state of Washington and the programs,
24 projects, and activities that the commission is undertaking regarding
25 those issues.

26 (5) Each state department and agency shall provide appropriate and
27 reasonable assistance to the commission as needed in order that the
28 commission may carry out the purposes of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** In carrying out its duties, the commission
2 may establish relationships with local governments and private industry
3 as needed to promote equal opportunity and benefits to African-
4 Americans in government, education, economic development, employment,
5 and services.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The commission shall have authority to
7 receive such gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private
8 sources as may be made from time to time or otherwise for the use and
9 benefit of the purposes of the commission and to expend the same or any
10 income therefrom according to the terms of said gifts, grants, or
11 endowments.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If any provision of this act or its
13 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
14 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
15 persons or circumstances is not affected.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act shall expire on June 30, 1999,
17 unless extended by law for an additional fixed period of time.