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SENATE FILE 283

BY SZYMONIAK

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a commission of Asian-Pacific persons within the
2 department of human rights.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Sections 2 through 10 of this Act shall be
2 enacted as subchapter 8 of chapter 216A.

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 216A.121 DEFINITIONS.

4 For purposes of this subchapter, unless the context
5 otherwise requires:

6 1. "Administrator" means the administrator of the division
7 of Asian-Pacific persons of the department of human rights.

8 2. "Asian-Pacific person" means a person from any of the
9 countries of Asia or the Pacific islands.

10 3. "Commission" means the commission of Asian-Pacific
11 persons.

12 4. "Division" means the division of Asian-Pacific persons
13 of the department of human rights.

14 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 216A.122 ESTABLISHMENT.

15 A commission of Asian-Pacific persons is established
16 consisting of nine members appointed by the governor, and
17 confirmed by the senate, pursuant to chapter 59, to four-year
18 staggered terms. Vacancies in the membership shall be filled
19 for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original
20 appointment. The members of the commission shall select one
21 of the members to serve as chairperson of the commission.

22 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 216A.123 MEETINGS OF THE
23 COMMISSION.

24 The commission shall meet at least four times each year,
25 and shall hold special meetings on the call of the
26 chairperson. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
27 chapter 17A as it deems necessary for the commission and
28 division. The members of the commission shall be reimbursed
29 for actual expenses while engaged in their official duties. A
30 member may also be eligible to receive compensation as
31 provided in section 7E.6.

32 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 216A.124 DUTIES.

33 The commission shall do all of the following:

34 1. Advise the governor and the general assembly on issues
35 confronting Asian-Pacific persons in this state, including the

1 unique problems of non-English-speaking immigrants and
2 refugees.

3 2. Advise the governor and the general assembly of
4 administrative and legislative changes necessary to ensure
5 Asian-Pacific persons access to benefits and services provided
6 to people in this state.

7 3. Recommend to the governor and the general assembly any
8 revisions in the state's affirmative action program and other
9 steps necessary to eliminate underutilization of Asian-Pacific
10 persons in the state's work force.

11 4. Recommend to the governor and the general assembly
12 legislation intended to improve the economic and social
13 condition of Asian-Pacific persons in this state.

14 5. Serve as a conduit to state government for
15 organizations of Asian-Pacific persons in this state.

16 6. Serve as a referral agency to assist Asian-Pacific
17 persons in securing access to state agencies and programs.

18 7. Serve as a liaison with the federal government, local
19 government units, and private organizations on matters
20 relating to the Asian-Pacific persons of this state.

21 8. Perform or contract for the performance of studies
22 designed to suggest solutions to the problems of Asian-Pacific
23 persons in the areas of education, employment, human rights,
24 health, housing, social welfare, and other related areas.

25 9. Implement programs designed to solve the problems of
26 Asian-Pacific persons when authorized by law.

27 10. Publicize the accomplishments of Asian-Pacific persons
28 and their contributions to this state.

29 11. Work with other state and federal agencies and
30 organizations to develop small business opportunities and
31 promote economic development for Asian-Pacific persons.

32 12. Supervise development of an Asian-Pacific trade
33 primer, outlining Asian and Pacific customs, cultural
34 traditions, and business practices, including language usage
35 for use by Iowa's export community.

1 13. Cooperate with other state and federal agencies and
2 organizations to develop improved state trade relations with
3 Asian and Pacific countries.

4 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 216A.125 REVIEW OF GRANT
5 APPLICATIONS AND BUDGET REQUESTS.

6 Before the submission of an application, state departments
7 and agencies shall consult with the commission concerning
8 applications for federal funding that will have its primary
9 effect on Asian-Pacific persons in Iowa. The commission shall
10 advise the governor and the director of revenue and finance
11 concerning any state agency request that will have its primary
12 effect on Asian-Pacific persons in Iowa.

13 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 216A.126 ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.

14 The commission may:

15 1. Enter into contracts, within the limit of funds made
16 available to it, with individuals, organizations, and
17 institutions for services.

18 2. Accept grants of money or property from the federal
19 government or any other source, and may upon its own order use
20 this money, property, or other resources to accomplish the
21 duties of the commission.

22 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 216A.127 EMPLOYEES AND
23 RESPONSIBILITY.

24 The commission shall employ other necessary employees.
25 Pursuant to section 216A.2, the commission shall have
26 responsibility for budgetary and personnel decisions for the
27 commission and division. The administrator shall carry out
28 programs and policies as determined by the commission.

29 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 216A.128 STATE AGENCY ASSISTANCE.

30 On the request of the commission, state departments and
31 agencies shall supply the commission with advisory staff
32 services on matters relating to the jurisdiction of the
33 commission. The commission shall cooperate and coordinate its
34 activities with other state agencies to the highest possible
35 degree.

