

MAR 3 1999

HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE
BY FORD

469

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a commission on the status of Iowans of Asian
2 and Pacific Islander heritage within the department of human
3 rights.

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

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1 Section 1. Sections 2 through 11 of this Act are enacted
2 as subchapter 11 of chapter 216A.

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 216A.151 DEFINITIONS.

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

6 1. "Administrator" means the administrator of the division
7 on the status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage
8 of the department of human rights.

9 2. "Asian and Pacific Islander" means a person from any of
10 the countries of Asia or islands of the Pacific.

11 3. "Commission" means the commission on the status of
12 Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

13 4. "Division" means the division on the status of Iowans
14 of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage of the department of
15 human rights.

16 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 216A.152 ESTABLISHMENT.

17 A commission on the status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific
18 Islander heritage is established consisting of nine members
19 appointed by the governor. The members of the commission
20 shall appoint one of the members to serve as chairperson of
21 the commission.

22 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 216A.153 TERM OF OFFICE.

23 Four of the members appointed to the initial commission
24 shall be designated by the governor to serve two-year terms,
25 and five shall be designated by the governor to serve four-
26 year terms. Succeeding appointments shall be for a term of
27 four years. Vacancies in the membership shall be filled for
28 the unexpired term in the same manner as the original
29 appointment.

30 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 216A.154 MEETINGS OF THE
31 COMMISSION.

32 The commission shall meet at least four times each year,
33 and shall hold special meetings on the call of the
34 chairperson. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
35 chapter 17A as it deems necessary for the commission and

1 division. The members of the commission shall be reimbursed
2 for actual expenses while engaged in their official duties. A
3 member may also be eligible to receive compensation as
4 provided in section 7E.6.

5 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 216A.155 DUTIES.

6 The commission shall:

- 7 1. Advise the governor and the general assembly on issues
8 confronting Asian and Pacific Islander persons in this state,
9 including the unique problems of non-English-speaking
10 immigrants and refugees.
- 11 2. Advise the governor and the general assembly of
12 administrative and legislative changes necessary to ensure
13 Asian and Pacific Islander persons access to benefits and
14 services provided to people in this state.
- 15 3. Recommend to the governor and the general assembly any
16 revisions in the state's affirmative action program and other
17 steps necessary to eliminate underutilization of Asian and
18 Pacific Islander persons in the state's workforce.
- 19 4. Recommend to the governor and the general assembly
20 legislation designed to improve the economic and social
21 condition of Asian and Pacific Islander persons in this state.
- 22 5. Serve as a conduit to state government for
23 organizations of Asian and Pacific Islander persons in this
24 state.
- 25 6. Serve as a referral agency to assist Asian and Pacific
26 Islander persons in securing access to state agencies and
27 programs.
- 28 7. Serve as a liaison with the federal government, local
29 government units, and private organizations on matters
30 relating to the Asian and Pacific Islander persons of this
31 state.
- 32 8. Perform or contract for the performance of studies
33 designed to suggest solutions to the problems of Asian and
34 Pacific Islander persons in the areas of education,
35 employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and

1 other related areas.

2 9. Implement programs designed to solve the problems of
3 Asian and Pacific Islander persons when authorized by law.

4 10. Publicize the accomplishments of Asian and Pacific
5 Islander persons and their contributions to this state.

6 11. Work with other state and federal agencies and
7 organizations to develop small business opportunities and
8 promote economic development for Asian and Pacific Islander
9 persons.

10 12. Supervise development of an Asian and Pacific Islander
11 trade primer, outlining Asian and Pacific Islander customs,
12 cultural traditions, and business practices, including
13 language usage for use by Iowa's export community.

14 13. Cooperate with other state and federal agencies and
15 organizations to develop improved state trade relations with
16 Asian and Pacific Islander countries.

17 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 216A.156 REVIEW OF GRANT
18 APPLICATIONS AND BUDGET REQUESTS.

19 Before the submission of an application, state departments
20 and agencies shall consult with the commission concerning
21 applications for federal funding that will have its primary
22 effect on Asian and Pacific Islander persons in Iowa. The
23 commission shall advise the governor and the director of
24 revenue and finance concerning any state agency request that
25 will have its primary effect on Asian and Pacific Islander
26 persons in Iowa.

27 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 216A.157 ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.

28 The commission may:

29 1. Enter into contracts, within the limit of funds made
30 available to it, with individuals, organizations, and
31 institutions for services.

32 2. Solicit and accept grants of moneys or property from
33 the federal government or any other source, and may upon its
34 own order use this money, property, or other resources to
35 accomplish the duties of the commission.

