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STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 50  
BY GIPP, LARSON, JACOBS, CHIODO,  
HUSER, and T. TAYLOR

(COMPANION TO LSB 1434SS BY KRAMER)

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

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

4 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 are enacted  
2 as subchapter 11 of Code chapter 216A.

3 Sec. 2. Section 216A.1, Code 2001, is amended by adding  
4 the following new subsection:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. Division on the status of Iowans of  
6 Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

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

8 For purposes of this subchapter, unless the context  
9 otherwise requires:

10 1. "Administrator" means the administrator of the division  
11 on the status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage  
12 of the department of human rights.

13 2. "Asian and Pacific Islander" means an individual from  
14 any of the countries of Asia or islands of the Pacific.

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

17 4. "Division" means the division on the status of Iowans  
18 of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage of the department of  
19 human rights.

20 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 216A.152 ESTABLISHMENT.

21 A commission on the status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific  
22 Islander heritage is established consisting of nine members  
23 appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the  
24 senate. Members shall be appointed representing every  
25 geographical area of the state. The members of the commission  
26 shall appoint one of the members to serve as chairperson of  
27 the commission.

28 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 216A.153 TERM OF OFFICE.

29 Four of the members appointed to the initial commission  
30 shall be designated by the governor to serve two-year terms,  
31 and five shall be designated by the governor to serve four-  
32 year terms. Succeeding appointments shall be for a term of  
33 four years. Vacancies in the membership shall be filled for  
34 the remainder of the term of the original appointment.

35 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 216A.154 MEETINGS OF THE

## 1 COMMISSION.

2 The commission shall meet at least four times each year,  
3 and shall hold special meetings on the call of the  
4 chairperson. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to  
5 chapter 17A as it deems necessary for the conduct of its  
6 business. The members of the commission shall be reimbursed  
7 for actual expenses while engaged in their official duties. A  
8 member may also be eligible to receive compensation as  
9 provided in section 7E.6.

10 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 216A.155 DUTIES.

11 The commission shall:

12 1. Advise the governor and the general assembly on issues  
13 confronting Asian and Pacific Islander persons in this state,  
14 including the unique problems of non-English-speaking  
15 immigrants and refugees.

16 2. Advise the governor and the general assembly of  
17 administrative and legislative changes necessary to ensure  
18 Asian and Pacific Islander persons access to benefits and  
19 services provided to people in this state.

20 3. Recommend to the governor and the general assembly any  
21 revisions in the state's affirmative action program and other  
22 steps necessary to eliminate underutilization of Asian and  
23 Pacific Islander persons in the state's workforce.

24 4. Recommend legislation to the governor and the general  
25 assembly designed to improve the economic and social condition  
26 of Asian and Pacific Islander persons in this state.

27 5. Serve as a conduit to state government for  
28 organizations of Asian and Pacific Islander persons in this  
29 state.

30 6. Serve as a referral agency to assist Asian and Pacific  
31 Islander persons in securing access to state agencies and  
32 programs.

33 7. Serve as a liaison with federal, state, and local  
34 governmental units, and private organizations on matters  
35 relating to the Asian and Pacific Islander persons in this

1 state.

2 8. Perform or contract for the performance of studies  
3 designed to suggest solutions to the problems of Asian and  
4 Pacific Islander persons in the areas of education,  
5 employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and  
6 other related areas.

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

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

11 11. Work with other state and federal agencies and  
12 organizations to develop small business opportunities and  
13 promote economic development for Asian and Pacific Islander  
14 persons.

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

19 13. Cooperate with other state and federal agencies and  
20 organizations to develop improved state trade relations with  
21 Asian and Pacific Islander countries.

22 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 216A.156 REVIEW OF GRANT  
23 APPLICATIONS AND BUDGET REQUESTS.

24 Before the submission of an application, state departments  
25 and agencies shall consult with the commission concerning  
26 applications for federal funding that will have its primary  
27 effect on persons of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage in  
28 Iowa. The commission shall advise the governor and the  
29 director of revenue and finance concerning any state agency  
30 budget request that will have its primary effect on persons of  
31 Asian and Pacific Islander heritage in Iowa.

32 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 216A.157 ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.

33 The commission may:

34 1. Enter into contracts, within the limit of funds made  
35 available, with individuals, organizations, and institutions

1 for services.

2 2. Solicit and accept grants of moneys or property from  
3 the federal government or any other source, and upon its own  
4 order use this money, property, or other resources to perform  
5 the duties of the commission.

6 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 216A.158 EMPLOYEES AND  
7 RESPONSIBILITY.

8 The commission shall employ necessary employees. Pursuant  
9 to section 216A.2, the commission shall have responsibility  
10 for budgetary and personnel decisions for the commission and  
11 division. The administrator shall administer programs and  
12 policies as determined by the commission.

13 Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 216A.159 STATE AGENCY ASSISTANCE.

14 On the request of the commission, state departments and  
15 agencies shall supply the commission with advisory staff  
16 services on matters relating to the jurisdiction of the  
17 commission. The commission shall cooperate and coordinate its  
18 activities with other state agencies to the highest possible  
19 degree.

20 Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 216A.160 ANNUAL REPORT.

21 Not later than February 1 of each year, the commission  
22 shall file a report with the governor and the general assembly  
23 of its activities for the previous calendar year. With the  
24 report, the commission may submit any recommendations  
25 pertaining to its activities and shall submit recommendations  
26 for legislative consideration and other action it deems  
27 necessary.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill establishes a division on the status of Iowans of  
30 Asian and Pacific Islander heritage within the department of  
31 human rights. The commission on the status of Iowans of Asian  
32 and Pacific Islander heritage is also created. The commission  
33 consists of nine members, appointed by the governor and  
34 subject to senate confirmation. Duties of the commission are  
35 specified.