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HOUSE BILL 1631

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Wineberry, McLean, Franklin, Anderson, Ballard, Ebersole, Ferguson, Miller, Hine, Horn, Prince, Prentice, Holland, O'Brien, May, Wang, Fuhrman, Belcher, Bowman, Heavey, Van Luven, Phillips, Paris, Hargrove, Lisk, Spanel, Moyer, Braddock, Brumsickle, R. Fisher, D. Sommers, Appelwick, Padden, R. Meyers, Peery, Tate, Jones, Betrozoff, Cole, Dorn, Grant, Ludwig, Valle, Rayburn, Sheldon, Riley, H. Myers, Pruitt, Nelson, Kremen, Zellinsky, Dellwo, Sprenkle, Jacobsen, Scott, Rust, Ogden, G. Fisher, Bray, Cantwell, Inslee, Brough, R. King, Winsley, Basich, Leonard, Locke, Orr, Cooper, Brekke, Rasmussen, P. Johnson and Casada.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the commission on African-American affairs;  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature declares that it is the  
5 public policy of this state to insure equal opportunity for all of its  
6 citizens. The legislature finds that, for economic, social, and  
7 historical reasons, a disproportionate number of African-Americans find  
8 themselves disadvantaged or isolated from the benefits of equal  
9 opportunity. The legislature believes that it is the duty of this  
10 state to improve the well-being of African-Americans by enabling them  
11 to participate fully in all fields of endeavor and by assisting them in  
12 obtaining governmental services. The legislature further finds that  
13 the development of public policy and the delivery of governmental  
14 services to meet the special needs of African-Americans can be improved  
15 by establishing a focal point in state government for the interests of

1 African-American citizens. Therefore, the legislature deems it  
2 necessary to establish in statute the commission on African-American  
3 affairs to further these purposes.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state commission on  
5 African-American affairs is created. The commission shall be  
6 administered by an executive director, who shall be appointed by, and  
7 serve at the pleasure of, the governor. The governor shall set the  
8 salary of the executive director. The executive director shall employ  
9 the staff of the commission.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The commission shall consist of nine  
11 members, appointed by the governor. The commission shall make  
12 recommendations to the governor on appointment of the chair of the  
13 commission. The governor shall appoint the chair of the commission.  
14 To the extent practicable, appointments to the commission shall be made  
15 to achieve a balanced representation based on African-American  
16 population distribution within the state, geographic considerations,  
17 sex, age, and occupation. Members shall serve three-year terms.  
18 However, of the initial appointees, one-third shall serve three-year  
19 terms, one-third shall serve two-year terms, and one-third shall serve  
20 a one-year term. In the case of a vacancy, appointment shall be for  
21 the remainder of the unexpired term. No member shall serve more than  
22 two full consecutive terms. Members shall be reimbursed for travel  
23 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with  
24 RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Five members shall constitute a quorum  
25 for the purposes of conducting business.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The commission shall have the following  
27 powers and duties:

1 (1) Examine and define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of  
2 African-Americans, and make recommendations to the governor and state  
3 agencies for changes in programs and laws.

4 (2) Advise the governor and state agencies on the development and  
5 implementation of policies, plans, and programs that relate to the  
6 special needs of African-Americans.

7 (3) Acting in concert with the governor, advise the legislature on  
8 issues of concern to the African-American community.

9 (4) Establish relationships with state agencies, local governments,  
10 and private sector organizations that promote equal opportunity and  
11 benefits for African-Americans.

12 (5) Receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private  
13 sources that are made for the use or benefit of the commission and  
14 expend, without appropriation, the same or any income from the gifts,  
15 grants, or endowments according to their terms.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall  
17 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of three hundred thousand  
19 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
20 the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the  
21 commission on African-American affairs for the purposes of  
22 administering this act.