
SENATE BILL 6622

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles, Sheahan, McAuliffe, Prentice, B. Sheldon, Winsley, Finkbeiner, Benton, Fairley, Eide, Goings, Bauer, Franklin, Haugen, Gardner, Loveland, T. Sheldon, Jacobsen, Hargrove, Kline, Fraser, Heavey, Patterson, Hale and Roach

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the designation of May as Asian Pacific American
2 Heritage Month; amending RCW 43.117.010 and 43.117.070; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.117 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.117.010 and 1995 c 67 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The legislature declares that the public policy of this state is to
8 insure equal opportunity for all of its citizens. The legislature
9 finds that Asian Pacific Americans have unique and special problems.
10 It is the purpose of this chapter to improve the well-being of Asian
11 Pacific Americans by insuring their access to participation in the
12 fields of government, business, education, and other areas. The
13 legislature is particularly concerned with the plight of those Asian
14 Pacific Americans who, for economic, linguistic, or cultural reasons,
15 find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from American society and the
16 benefits of equal opportunity. The legislature aims to help these and
17 all Asian Pacific Americans achieve full equality and inclusion in
18 American society. The legislature further finds that it is necessary
19 to aid Asian Pacific Americans in obtaining governmental services in

1 order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all the residents
2 of this state. Therefore the legislature deems it necessary to create
3 a commission to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.117 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature declares that:

7 (1) May of each year will be known as Asian Pacific American
8 Heritage Month;

9 (2) The fourth week of May is designated as a time for people of
10 this state to celebrate the contributions to the state by Asian Pacific
11 Americans in the arts, sciences, commerce, and education; and

12 (3) Educational institutions, public entities, and private
13 organizations are encouraged to designate time for appropriate
14 activities in commemoration of the lives, history, achievements, and
15 contributions of Asian Pacific Americans.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.117.070 and 1995 c 67 s 5 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) The commission shall examine and define issues pertaining to
19 the rights and needs of Asian Pacific Americans, and make
20 recommendations to the governor and state agencies with respect to
21 desirable changes in program and law.

22 (2) The commission shall (~~further~~) advise such state government
23 agencies on the development and implementation of comprehensive and
24 coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing on the special
25 problems and needs of Asian Pacific Americans.

26 (3) The commission shall coordinate and assist with state-wide
27 celebrations during the fourth week of Asian Pacific American Heritage
28 Month that recognize the contributions to the state by Asian Pacific
29 Americans in the arts, sciences, commerce, and education.

30 (4) Each state department and agency shall provide appropriate and
31 reasonable assistance to the commission as needed in order that the
32 commission may carry out the purposes of this chapter.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect April 30, 2000.

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