



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMM'N.

House Bill 5732

Sponsor: Rep. H. Lynn Jondahl

Committee: Civil Rights

Complete to 11-6-90

***A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5732 AS
INTRODUCED 5-9-90***

House Bill 5732 would create the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission Act to serve the needs of Asian Pacific Americans in the state. Under the bill, "Asian Pacific American" would mean a person who had origins or who was regarded in the community as having origins in any of the original peoples of the far east, southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands; and who is identified by an employer in a federal employer information report as "Asian" or "Pacific Islander." The bill would create the Office of Asian Pacific American Affairs and a 15-member Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission in the Department of Management and Budget. The department would be required to furnish administrative services, secretarial and other staff, professional employees, and office space for the commission and the office.

Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. The commission would be appointed within 90 days after the bill's effective date. The commission would exercise its powers and duties independently of the department, except for budget, procurement, and housekeeping functions. Commission members would be of Asian or Pacific Islander origin or descent, appointed by the governor, and representative of Asian Pacific American geographical areas throughout the state. They would serve three-year staggered terms. Commission business would be subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

The commission would be required to do all of the following:

- Stimulate and encourage the study and review of the status of Asian Pacific Americans in the state;
- Develop a unified policy and plan of action to serve the needs of Asian Pacific Americans in the state;
- Advise the governor, the legislature, and the Office of Asian Pacific American Affairs on the coordination and administration of state programs serving Asian Pacific Americans;
- Make recommendations to the governor and legislature regarding changes in state programs, statutes, and policies;
- Advise the governor and legislature of the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of Asian Pacific Americans in the state;
- Review and advise the governor and the legislature on the state's policies concerning Asian Pacific American affairs;
- Secure appropriate recognition of Asian Pacific American accomplishments and contributions to the state;
- Review and approve the Office of Asian Pacific American Affairs' annual report;
- Make recommendations to the governor and legislature regarding methods of overcoming discrimination against Asian Pacific Americans in public and private employment and civil and political rights;

- Work to ensure equal access to state services and all levels of education for Asian Pacific Americans;
- Cooperate with and coordinate activities with the Indian Affairs Commission, the Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs, the Michigan Women's Commission; and any other commission that deals with minority or ethnic affairs;
- Monitor, evaluate, investigate, advocate, and initiate programs for the betterment of Asian Pacific Americans in the state;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for incidents of anti-Asian and anti-Pacific Islander American harassment; and
- Promote public awareness of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures.

Office of Asian Pacific American Affairs. The director of the office would be selected by the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission with the concurrence of the director of the Department of Management and Budget. The office would be required to do all of the following:

- Provide the commission with information concerning the problems of Asian Pacific Americans, and implement commission policy;
- Conduct studies and recommend solutions to the problems of Asian Pacific Americans in the areas of education, employment, civil rights, health, housing, senior citizens, mental health, social services, commerce, and other related areas;
- Recommend to federal, state, and local governmental departments and agencies the creation of services and facilities as needed;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of information on Asian Pacific American affairs;
- Apply for and accept grants and gifts from governmental and private sources;
- Request the services of all state and local governmental departments and agencies to assure that Asian Pacific Americans have access to decision making bodies whose policies affect them;
- Cooperate with departments and agencies to aid in effectuating the purposes of the act;
- Review the performance of state departments and agencies regarding the hiring, promotion, and provision of services to Asian Pacific Americans;
- Review the curriculum programs and policies of educational institutions regarding Asian Pacific Americans, and the admissions programs of postsecondary educational institutions regarding Asian Pacific Americans; and
- Submit a full written report of its activities and recommendations each year to the governor, legislature, and various Asian Pacific American communities throughout the state.