

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

H. B. No. 25

Representatives Galonski, Somani

**Cosponsors: Representatives Abdullahi, Baker, Brennan, Brent, Forhan,
Humphrey, Jarrells, Liston, Miller, A., Miranda, Russo, Upchurch**

A BILL

To enact sections 121.34 and 121.341 of the Revised 1
Code to create the Ohio Asian-American and 2
Pacific Islander Affairs Commission and the 3
Office of Asian American and Pacific Islander 4
Affairs and to make an appropriation. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 121.34 and 121.341 of the Revised 6
Code be enacted to read as follows: 7

Sec. 121.34. (A) There is the Ohio Asian-American and 8
Pacific Islander affairs commission consisting of eleven voting 9
members and four ex officio, nonvoting members as provided in 10
divisions (C) and (D) of this section. 11

(B) The Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs 12
commission shall do all of the following: 13

(1) Gather and disseminate information and conduct 14
hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on 15
problems and programs concerning Asian-Americans and Pacific 16
Islanders; 17

(2) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to this state; 18
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(3) Stimulate public awareness of the problems of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders by conducting a program of public education; 21
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(4) Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private organizations that serve Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, including the conducting of training programs for community leadership and service project staff; 24
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(5) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state departments and agencies of the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders; 28
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(6) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state departments and agencies on, and assist in the development and implementation of, comprehensive and coordinated policies, programs, and procedures focusing on the special problems and needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, especially in the fields of education, employment, energy, health, housing, welfare, and recreation; 32
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(7) Propose new programs concerning Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to public and private agencies and evaluate for such agencies existing programs or prospective legislation concerning Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders; 39
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(8) Review grants, which are made by federal, state, or private sources, and which are to be administered by the office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs, and approve the administration of the grant by the office or by a subcontractor 43
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of the office; 47

(9) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the 48
office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs; 49

(10) Provide and coordinate the exchange of information 50
relative to the needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders 51
and promote the delivery of state services to such people. 52

(C) The governor shall appoint eleven voting members to 53
the commission with the advice and consent of the senate. The 54
speaker of the house of representatives shall recommend to the 55
governor two persons for appointment to the commission, the 56
president of the senate shall recommend to the governor two such 57
persons, and the minority leaders of the house and senate shall 58
each recommend to the governor one such person. 59

In addition, two ex officio, nonvoting members of the 60
commission shall be members of the house of representatives 61
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two 62
ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission shall be members 63
of the senate appointed by the president of the senate. The 64
speaker shall appoint one member of the house of representatives 65
from among the representatives who are affiliated with the 66
political party having a majority in the house of 67
representatives and one member of the house of representatives 68
from among the representatives who are affiliated with the 69
political party having a minority in the house of 70
representatives. The president shall appoint one member of the 71
senate from among the senators who are affiliated with the 72
political party having a majority in the senate and one member 73
of the senate from among the senators who are affiliated with 74
the political party having a minority in the senate. 75

After the governor makes initial appointments to the 76
commission, at the first organizational meeting of the 77
commission, the initial eleven voting members shall draw lots to 78
determine the length of the term each member shall serve. Three 79
shall be for a term ending one year after the effective date of 80
this section, four shall be for a term ending two years after 81
the effective date of this section, and four shall be for a term 82
ending three years after the effective date of this section. 83
Thereafter, terms of office shall be for three years, except 84
that members of the general assembly appointed to the commission 85
shall be members of the commission only so long as they are 86
members of the general assembly. Each term shall end on the same 87
day of the same month of the year as did the term which it 88
succeeds. Each member shall hold office from the date of 89
appointment until the end of the term for which the member was 90
appointed. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the 91
original appointment. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy 92
occurring before the expiration of the term for which the 93
member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the 94
remainder of such term. Any member shall continue in office 95
after the expiration of the member's term until the member's 96
successor takes office, or until a period of sixty days has 97
elapsed, whichever occurs first. 98

(D) All voting members of the commission shall be United 99
States citizens or lawful, permanent, resident aliens. Voting 100
members shall be from urban, suburban, and rural geographical 101
areas representative of Asian-American and Pacific Islander 102
peoples with a numerical and geographical balance of the Asian- 103
American and Pacific Islander population throughout the state. 104

(E) The commission shall meet not less than six times per 105
calendar year. The commission shall elect a chairperson, vice- 106

chairperson, and other officers from its voting members as it 107
considers advisable. Six voting members constitute a quorum. The 108
commission shall adopt rules governing its procedures. No action 109
of the commission is valid without the concurrence of six 110
members. 111

(F) Each voting member shall be compensated for work as a 112
member for each day that the member is actually engaged in the 113
performance of work as a member, in an amount determined under 114
division (J) of section 124.15 of the Revised Code. No voting 115
member shall be compensated for more than one day each month. In 116
addition, each voting member shall be reimbursed for all actual 117
and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official 118
business. 119

Sec. 121.341. The office of Asian-American and Pacific 120
Islander affairs is created. The office shall be accountable to 121
the Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs commission. The 122
chief administrator of the office shall be the director of 123
Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs, who shall be 124
appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the commission. 125

The director, with the approval of the commission, shall 126
appoint such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties 127
of the office. The employees shall serve at the pleasure of the 128
director. 129

The office shall compile and provide information to the 130
commission about, and advise it on, solutions to the problems of 131
Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. The office shall execute 132
the tasks assigned to it by the commission which shall include 133
the following: 134

(A) Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all 135

proposals to meet the needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders that are submitted to it by public and private agencies; 136
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(B) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from governmental and private sources to be administered by the office or subcontracted to local agencies; 139
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(C) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to local agencies by the commission, and ensure that any grant or gift is being used for the public purpose intended; 142
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(D) Endeavor to ensure that Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to decision-making bodies in all state and local governmental departments and agencies; 145
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(E) Submit a full written annual report of its activities, accomplishments, and recommendations to the commission; 148
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(F) Establish advisory committees on special subjects as needed to facilitate and maximize community participation in the operation of the commission. The committees shall be composed of persons representing community organizations and charitable institutions, public officials, and such other persons as the office determines. 150
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(G) Establish, with state and local governments and private business and industry, relationships that promote and ensure equal opportunity for Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders in government, education, and employment. 156
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Section 2. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 160
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 161
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 162
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 163
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 164

The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 165
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 166

Section 3. 167

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| A | API OHIO ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS COMMISSION | | | | |
| B | General Revenue Fund | | | | |
| C | GRF | 126400 | Operating Expenses | \$440,944 | \$440,944 |
| D | TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund | | | \$440,944 | \$440,944 |
| E | TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS | | | \$440,944 | \$440,944 |

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 169
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 170
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 171
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 172
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 173
appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for as 174
though made in, and are subject to all applicable provisions of, 175
the main operating appropriations act of the 135th General 176
Assembly. 177