

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2019-2020**

**H. B. No. 630**

**Representatives Howse, Galonski**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Smith, K., Brent, Lightbody, Miranda, Crawley,  
Lepore-Hagan, Weinstein, Sobecki, Sykes, Crossman, Russo, Boyd**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 121.30 and to enact sections 1  
121.34 and 121.341 of the Revised Code to create 2  
the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander 3  
Affairs Commission and the Office of Asian- 4  
American and Pacific Islander Affairs. 5

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

**Section 1.** That section 121.30 be amended and sections 6  
121.34 and 121.341 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 7  
follows: 8

**Sec. 121.30.** As used in sections 121.30 to ~~121.34~~ 121.33 9  
of the Revised Code, "Spanish-speaking people" means persons who 10  
possess any of the following characteristics: 11

(A) Use Spanish as their primary language; 12

(B) Regard themselves as or are regarded in their 13  
community as being of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central 14  
American, South American, Spanish, or other Spanish-speaking 15  
origin or descent. 16

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

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

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

(2) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to this state;

(3) Stimulate public awareness of the problems of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders by conducting a program of public education;

(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;

(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;

(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, 46  
welfare, and recreation; 47

(7) Propose new programs concerning Asian-Americans and 48  
Pacific Islanders to public and private agencies and evaluate 49  
for such agencies existing programs or prospective legislation 50  
concerning Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders; 51

(8) Review grants, which are made by federal, state, or 52  
private sources, and which are to be administered by the office 53  
of Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs, and approve the 54  
administration of the grant by the office or by a subcontractor 55  
of the office; 56

(9) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the 57  
office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs; 58

(10) Provide and coordinate the exchange of information 59  
relative to the needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders 60  
and promote the delivery of state services to such people. 61

(C) The governor shall appoint eleven voting members to 62  
the commission with the advice and consent of the senate. The 63  
speaker of the house of representatives shall recommend to the 64  
governor two persons for appointment to the commission, the 65  
president of the senate shall recommend to the governor two such 66  
persons, and the minority leaders of the house and senate shall 67  
each recommend to the governor one such person. 68

In addition, two ex officio, nonvoting members of the 69  
commission shall be members of the house of representatives 70  
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two 71  
ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission shall be members 72  
of the senate appointed by the president of the senate. The 73  
speaker shall appoint one member of the house of representatives 74

from among the representatives who are affiliated with the 75  
political party having a majority in the house of 76  
representatives and one member of the house of representatives 77  
from among the representatives who are affiliated with the 78  
political party having a minority in the house of 79  
representatives. The president shall appoint one member of the 80  
senate from among the senators who are affiliated with the 81  
political party having a majority in the senate and one member 82  
of the senate from among the senators who are affiliated with 83  
the political party having a minority in the senate. 84

After the governor makes initial appointments to the 85  
commission, at the first organizational meeting of the 86  
commission, the initial eleven voting members shall draw lots to 87  
determine the length of the term each member shall serve. Three 88  
shall be for a term ending one year after the effective date of 89  
this section, four shall be for a term ending two years after 90  
the effective date of this section, and four shall be for a term 91  
ending three years after the effective date of this section. 92  
Thereafter, terms of office shall be for three years, except 93  
that members of the general assembly appointed to the commission 94  
shall be members of the commission only so long as they are 95  
members of the general assembly. Each term shall end on the same 96  
day of the same month of the year as did the term which it 97  
succeeds. Each member shall hold office from the date of 98  
appointment until the end of the term for which the member was 99  
appointed. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the 100  
original appointment. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy 101  
occurring before the expiration of the term for which the 102  
member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the 103  
remainder of such term. Any member shall continue in office 104  
after the expiration of the member's term until the member's 105

successor takes office, or until a period of sixty days has 106  
elapsed, whichever occurs first. 107

(D) All voting members of the commission shall be United 108  
States citizens or lawful, permanent, resident aliens. Voting 109  
members shall be from urban, suburban, and rural geographical 110  
areas representative of Asian-American and Pacific Islander 111  
peoples with a numerical and geographical balance of the Asian- 112  
American and Pacific Islander population throughout the state. 113

(E) The commission shall meet not less than six times per 114  
calendar year. The commission shall elect a chairperson, vice- 115  
chairperson, and other officers from its voting members as it 116  
considers advisable. Six voting members constitute a quorum. The 117  
commission shall adopt rules governing its procedures. No action 118  
of the commission is valid without the concurrence of six 119  
members. 120

(F) Each voting member shall be compensated for work as a 121  
member for each day that the member is actually engaged in the 122  
performance of work as a member, in an amount determined under 123  
division (J) of section 124.15 of the Revised Code. No voting 124  
member shall be compensated for more than one day each month. In 125  
addition, each voting member shall be reimbursed for all actual 126  
and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official 127  
business. 128

**Sec. 121.341.** The office of Asian-American and Pacific 129  
Islander affairs is created. The office shall be accountable to 130  
the commission on Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs. 131  
The chief administrator of the office shall be the director of 132  
Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs, who shall be 133  
appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the commission. 134

The director, with the approval of the commission, shall 135  
appoint such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties 136  
of the office. The employees shall serve at the pleasure of the 137  
director. 138

The office shall compile and provide information to the 139  
commission about, and advise it on, solutions to the problems of 140  
Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. The office shall execute 141  
the tasks assigned to it by the commission which shall include, 142  
but not be limited to, the following: 143

(A) Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all 144  
proposals to meet the needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific 145  
Islanders that are submitted to it by public and private 146  
agencies; 147

(B) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from 148  
governmental and private sources to be administered by the 149  
office or subcontracted to local agencies; 150

(C) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to 151  
local agencies by the commission, and ensure that any grant or 152  
gift is being used for the public purpose intended; 153

(D) Endeavor to assure that Asian-Americans and Pacific 154  
Islanders have access to decision-making bodies in all state and 155  
local governmental departments and agencies; 156

(E) Submit a full written annual report of its activities, 157  
accomplishments, and recommendations to the commission; 158

(F) Establish advisory committees on special subjects as 159  
needed to facilitate and maximize community participation in the 160  
operation of the commission. The committees shall be composed of 161  
persons representing community organizations and charitable 162  
institutions, public officials, and such other persons as the 163

<u>office determines.</u>	164
<u>(G) Establish, with state and local governments and</u>	165
<u>private business and industry, relationships that promote and</u>	166
<u>assure equal opportunity for Asian-Americans and Pacific</u>	167
<u>Islanders in government, education, and employment.</u>	168
<b>Section 2.</b> That existing section 121.30 of the Revised	169
Code is hereby repealed.	170