

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 224

Representatives Howse, Galonski

**Cosponsors: Representatives Crossman, Brent, Lightbody, Liston, Miller, A.,
Lepore-Hagan, Russo, Sheehy, Weinstein, Sobecki**

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 and to 5
make an appropriation. 6

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

Section 1. That section 121.30 be amended and sections 7
121.34 and 121.341 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 8
follows: 9

Sec. 121.30. As used in sections 121.30 to ~~121.34~~ 121.33 10
of the Revised Code, "Spanish-speaking people" means persons who 11
possess any of the following characteristics: 12

(A) Use Spanish as their primary language; 13

(B) Regard themselves as or are regarded in their 14
community as being of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central 15
American, South American, Spanish, or other Spanish-speaking 16
origin or descent. 17

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, 47
welfare, and recreation; 48

(7) Propose new programs concerning Asian-Americans and 49
Pacific Islanders to public and private agencies and evaluate 50
for such agencies existing programs or prospective legislation 51
concerning Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders; 52

(8) Review grants, which are made by federal, state, or 53
private sources, and which are to be administered by the office 54
of Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs, and approve the 55
administration of the grant by the office or by a subcontractor 56
of the office; 57

(9) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the 58
office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs; 59

(10) Provide and coordinate the exchange of information 60
relative to the needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders 61
and promote the delivery of state services to such people. 62

(C) The governor shall appoint eleven voting members to 63
the commission with the advice and consent of the senate. The 64
speaker of the house of representatives shall recommend to the 65
governor two persons for appointment to the commission, the 66
president of the senate shall recommend to the governor two such 67
persons, and the minority leaders of the house and senate shall 68
each recommend to the governor one such person. 69

In addition, two ex officio, nonvoting members of the 70
commission shall be members of the house of representatives 71
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two 72
ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission shall be members 73
of the senate appointed by the president of the senate. The 74
speaker shall appoint one member of the house of representatives 75

from among the representatives who are affiliated with the 76
political party having a majority in the house of 77
representatives and one member of the house of representatives 78
from among the representatives who are affiliated with the 79
political party having a minority in the house of 80
representatives. The president shall appoint one member of the 81
senate from among the senators who are affiliated with the 82
political party having a majority in the senate and one member 83
of the senate from among the senators who are affiliated with 84
the political party having a minority in the senate. 85

After the governor makes initial appointments to the 86
commission, at the first organizational meeting of the 87
commission, the initial eleven voting members shall draw lots to 88
determine the length of the term each member shall serve. Three 89
shall be for a term ending one year after the effective date of 90
this section, four shall be for a term ending two years after 91
the effective date of this section, and four shall be for a term 92
ending three years after the effective date of this section. 93
Thereafter, terms of office shall be for three years, except 94
that members of the general assembly appointed to the commission 95
shall be members of the commission only so long as they are 96
members of the general assembly. Each term shall end on the same 97
day of the same month of the year as did the term which it 98
succeeds. Each member shall hold office from the date of 99
appointment until the end of the term for which the member was 100
appointed. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the 101
original appointment. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy 102
occurring before the expiration of the term for which the 103
member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the 104
remainder of such term. Any member shall continue in office 105
after the expiration of the member's term until the member's 106

successor takes office, or until a period of sixty days has 107
elapsed, whichever occurs first. 108

(D) All voting members of the commission shall be United 109
States citizens or lawful, permanent, resident aliens. Voting 110
members shall be from urban, suburban, and rural geographical 111
areas representative of Asian-American and Pacific Islander 112
peoples with a numerical and geographical balance of the Asian- 113
American and Pacific Islander population throughout the state. 114

(E) The commission shall meet not less than six times per 115
calendar year. The commission shall elect a chairperson, vice- 116
chairperson, and other officers from its voting members as it 117
considers advisable. Six voting members constitute a quorum. The 118
commission shall adopt rules governing its procedures. No action 119
of the commission is valid without the concurrence of six 120
members. 121

(F) Each voting member shall be compensated for work as a 122
member for each day that the member is actually engaged in the 123
performance of work as a member, in an amount determined under 124
division (J) of section 124.15 of the Revised Code. No voting 125
member shall be compensated for more than one day each month. In 126
addition, each voting member shall be reimbursed for all actual 127
and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official 128
business. 129

Sec. 121.341. The office of Asian-American and Pacific 130
Islander affairs is created. The office shall be accountable to 131
the commission on Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs. 132
The chief administrator of the office shall be the director of 133
Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs, who shall be 134
appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the commission. 135

The director, with the approval of the commission, shall 136
appoint such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties 137
of the office. The employees shall serve at the pleasure of the 138
director. 139

The office shall compile and provide information to the 140
commission about, and advise it on, solutions to the problems of 141
Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. The office shall execute 142
the tasks assigned to it by the commission which shall include, 143
but not be limited to, the following: 144

(A) Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all 145
proposals to meet the needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific 146
Islanders that are submitted to it by public and private 147
agencies; 148

(B) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from 149
governmental and private sources to be administered by the 150
office or subcontracted to local agencies; 151

(C) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to 152
local agencies by the commission, and ensure that any grant or 153
gift is being used for the public purpose intended; 154

(D) Endeavor to assure that Asian-Americans and Pacific 155
Islanders have access to decision-making bodies in all state and 156
local governmental departments and agencies; 157

(E) Submit a full written annual report of its activities, 158
accomplishments, and recommendations to the commission; 159

(F) Establish advisory committees on special subjects as 160
needed to facilitate and maximize community participation in the 161
operation of the commission. The committees shall be composed of 162
persons representing community organizations and charitable 163
institutions, public officials, and such other persons as the 164

<u>office determines.</u>	165
<u>(G) Establish, with state and local governments and</u>	166
<u>private business and industry, relationships that promote and</u>	167
<u>assure equal opportunity for Asian-Americans and Pacific</u>	168
<u>Islanders in government, education, and employment.</u>	169
Section 2. That existing section 121.30 of the Revised	170
Code is hereby repealed.	171
Section 3. All items in this act are hereby appropriated	172
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the	173
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations	174
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year	175
2022 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2023.	176
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to	177
any other operating appropriations made for the FY 2022-FY 2023	178
biennium.	179
Section 4.	180
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	1	2	3	4	5
A	API OHIO ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS COMMISSION				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	126400	Operating	\$440,944	\$440,944
			Expenses		
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$440,944	\$440,944

