

[Second Reprint]  
ASSEMBLY, No. 691

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman ZISA, Assemblywoman WEINBERG  
and Assemblyman Dalton

1 AN ACT creating the New Jersey Human Relations Council and  
2 supplementing chapter 9DD of Title 52 of the <sup>2</sup>[New Jersey]  
3 Revised<sup>2</sup> Statutes and making an appropriation.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. a. There is hereby created the New Jersey Human Relations  
9 Council, referred to hereinafter as the council, which shall address the  
10 problem of bias and violent acts based on the victim's race, color  
11 religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or disability. The council  
12 shall be a permanent, independent body in but not of the Department  
13 of Law and Public Safety.

14 b. The council shall consist of an executive committee which shall  
15 include ten public members who shall be representative of the various  
16 ethnic; religious; racial; sexual orientation; gender; and disabilities  
17 organizations in this State, of whom four shall be appointed by the  
18 Governor, no more than two of whom shall be of the same political  
19 party; three shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, no more  
20 than two of whom shall be of the same political party; and three shall  
21 be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, no more than  
22 two of whom shall be of the same political party; two members of the  
23 Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, no more than one of  
24 whom shall be of the same political party; two members of the  
25 General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly,  
26 no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party; <sup>1</sup>[two]  
27 three<sup>1</sup> representatives from county human relations commissions  
28 representing <sup>1</sup>[two] three<sup>1</sup> different regions of the State appointed by  
29 the Governor; and the following ex officio members: the Attorney  
30 General of the State of New Jersey; Commissioner of the Department

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup> Assembly ACO committee amendments adopted June 3, 1996.

<sup>2</sup> Assembly floor amendments adopted June 24, 1996.

1 of Education; the Commissioner of the Department of Community  
2 Affairs; the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections; the  
3 Commissioner of the Department of Human Services; the Public  
4 Defender; the Director of the Administrative Offices of the Courts; the  
5 Director of the Division of Criminal Justice; the Superintendent of the  
6 Division of State Police; the Director of the Division on Civil Rights;  
7 the President of the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey;  
8 President of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police; the  
9 President of the Bias Crime Officers Association of New Jersey; a  
10 county Superintendent of Schools selected by the Commissioner of the  
11 Department of Education; the President of the New Jersey Principals  
12 and Supervisors Association; and the President of the New Jersey  
13 Education Association.

14 c. Of the public members first appointed to the council, six shall be  
15 appointed for a term of three years, two shall be appointed for terms  
16 of two years and two shall be appointed for a term of one year. The  
17 <sup>1</sup>[two] three<sup>1</sup> county human relations commissions representatives  
18 shall be appointed for terms of two years. The legislative members  
19 appointed initially under this act shall serve until the end of the  
20 legislative session in which the appointment is made. Thereafter, the  
21 legislative members shall be appointed for two year terms to coincide  
22 with the two year legislative term in which they serve on the council.  
23 Thereafter, the public members shall be appointed for terms of three  
24 years. Vacancies on the council shall be filled in the same manner as  
25 the original appointment but for the unexpired term. A chairperson  
26 shall be selected from among the public members of the council. The  
27 council shall have the authority to establish subcommittees as it deems  
28 appropriate and pursuant to this act.

29 d. Each ex officio member may designate <sup>1</sup>[an employee of ] a  
30 person from<sup>1</sup> the member's department or agency to represent the  
31 member at hearings of the council. All designees may lawfully vote  
32 and otherwise act on behalf of the member for whom they constitute  
33 the designee.

34

35 2. It shall be the duty of the council:

36 a. to develop policy proposals for the State and assist with  
37 coordinating efforts to prevent and deter crimes based upon the  
38 victim's race; color; religion; sexual orientation; ethnicity; gender; or  
39 physical, mental or cognitive disability;

40 b. to assist in diffusing tensions in communities affected by such  
41 crimes;

42 c. to act as a clearinghouse for information and program ideas  
43 among the existing county human relations commissions;

44 d. to assist the efforts of the county human relations commissions  
45 in relieving tensions within the community;

46 e. to assist in providing training programs for members of the

- 1 county human relations commissions and other interested community  
2 leaders;
- 3 f. to develop and present a biennial report to the Governor and  
4 Legislature on the status of bias and violence based upon race; color;  
5 religion; sexual orientation; ethnicity; gender; or physical, mental or  
6 cognitive disability;
- 7 g. to establish and maintain a listing of conflict resolution programs  
8 and experts to be available as a resource for communities in time of  
9 crisis;
- 10 h. to develop in conjunction with law enforcement agencies,  
11 including the Office of Bias Crimes and Community Relations in the  
12 Division of Criminal Justice, and the educational community cultural  
13 diversity training for law enforcement personnel;
- 14 i. to assist local communities in establishing local human  
15 <sup>1</sup>[resources] relations<sup>1</sup> commissions;
- 16 j. to assess changes in local demographics and assist communities  
17 in adapting to minority population shifts;
- 18 k. to assist State, county and local government agencies with  
19 multi-cultural awareness programs; and
- 20 l. to require that the two representatives from the county human  
21 relations commissions report back to the counties in each region  
22 regarding the work and activities of the State council.  
23
- 24 3. The council shall have the following powers:
- 25 a. to conduct public hearings throughout the State;
- 26 b. to establish subcommittees;
- 27 c. to perform fact finding functions and prepare reports on  
28 particular issues regarding racial; color; religious; sexual orientation;  
29 ethnicity; gender; or physical, mental or cognitive disability; and
- 30 d. to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of any  
31 official of this State and its political subdivisions and their  
32 departments, boards, bureaus, commissions and agencies as it may  
33 require and may expend any funds appropriated or otherwise made  
34 available to it.  
35
- 36 4. The council shall meet and hold hearings at such place or places  
37 it shall deem necessary.  
38
- 39 5. The Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and  
40 Public Safety shall assist the council in the performance of its duties.  
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- 42 6. The Legislature shall annually appropriate such sums as are  
43 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.  
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- 45 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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3 Creates New Jersey Human Relations Council to address problems of

4 bias and violent acts.