

ASSEMBLY, No. 2266

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JULY 18, 1996

By Assemblyman T. SMITH

1 AN ACT creating the Commission on the Socially and Economically  
2 Disadvantaged Minority Male Group, supplementing Title 52 of the  
3 Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

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

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8 1. a. There is created a 19-member Commission on the Socially  
9 and Economically Disadvantaged Minority Male Group which shall be  
10 a permanent, independent body in, but not of, the Department of Law  
11 and Public Safety. Members shall be appointed as follows: two shall  
12 be members of the Senate appointed by the President thereof, who  
13 shall not be of the same political party; two shall be members of the  
14 General Assembly appointed by the Speaker thereof, who shall not be  
15 of the same political party; a member of the New Jersey Office on  
16 Minority Health Advisory Commission appointed by the Governor; and  
17 14 public members appointed by the Governor. The public members  
18 shall be chosen from among civic and community leaders and  
19 representatives of the employment, criminal justice, education and  
20 health communities, including at least one representative of Aspira,  
21 Inc., FOCUS, the Black Issues Convention, the Black Men's Health  
22 Project Network, the National Association for the Advancement of  
23 Colored People, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement,  
24 the Negro Council of Women, the Puerto Rican Congress, the United  
25 Black Interdenominational Clergy, and the Urban League. One public  
26 member shall also be a member of the Latino clergy.

27 b. Initial members shall be appointed within 30 days following the  
28 effective date of this act. All members of the commission shall serve  
29 during the two-year legislative session in which the appointment is  
30 made.

31 c. The commission shall organize upon the appointment of a  
32 majority of its authorized membership and shall select from among its  
33 members a chairperson and also shall select a secretary who need not  
34 be a member of the commission.

35 d. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation,  
36 but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary and reasonable  
37 costs and expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

1 Reimbursement of costs and expenses is limited to the funds  
2 appropriated or otherwise made available to the commission for its  
3 purposes.

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5 2. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

6 a. solve problems and advance recommendations exclusively  
7 pertinent to Black and Latino males in the following four targeted  
8 areas: employment, criminal justice, education and health;

9 b. oversee and supervise four separate and distinct subcommittees,  
10 one devoted to each of the four targeted areas as follows:

11 (1) the subcommittee on employment shall focus on access to  
12 employment opportunities, access to workforce preparation,  
13 "Workforce 2000" marketing, business development, entrepreneurship  
14 and training for future labor markets;

15 (2) the subcommittee on the criminal justice system shall focus on  
16 juvenile justice, criminal justice system analysis, relations between  
17 police and the community, victimization at the hands of police,  
18 sentencing, violent crime, conflict resolution, domestic violence,  
19 homicide, suicide and deaths and injuries caused by guns;

20 (3) the subcommittee on education shall focus on drop-out rates,  
21 male attitudes toward schooling, academic achievement, vocational  
22 and technical training, higher education and educational alternatives;

23 (4) the subcommittee on health shall focus on healthy lifestyles,  
24 violence, all types of substance abuse, sexuality, prevention outreach,  
25 role model members and rites of passage programs, data collection and  
26 mental health;

27 c. conduct research to determine the nature and extent of the  
28 problems facing Black and Latino males;

29 d. identify existing federal, State and local programs that address  
30 the problems of Black and Latino males;

31 e. develop and implement new programs and demonstration  
32 projects addressing the problems of Black and Latino males;

33 f. develop and implement community education and public  
34 awareness programs designed to assist Black and Latino males;

35 g. develop strategies to improve the social conditions of Black and  
36 Latino males; and

37 h. provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual  
38 summary of the activities, findings and recommendations of the  
39 commission and issue any other periodic reports deemed necessary  
40 concerning the plight of Black and Latino males.

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42 3. The commission shall meet and hold hearings at such places and  
43 times as it designates.

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45 4. The commission shall be entitled to the assistance and services  
46 of the officials and employees of the State and its political subdivisions

1 and their departments, boards, bureaus, commissions and agencies as  
2 it may require to discharge its obligations and as may be available to  
3 it.

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5 5. The Legislature shall annually appropriate such sums as are  
6 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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8 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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11 STATEMENT

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13 This bill creates the Commission on the Socially and Economically  
14 Disadvantaged Minority Male Group which shall be a permanent,  
15 independent body in, but not of, the Department of Law and Public  
16 Safety. The commission shall consist of 19 members as follows: two  
17 members of the Senate who are not of the same political party and  
18 who are appointed by the Senate President; two members of the  
19 General Assembly who are not members of the same political party and  
20 who are appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; a member of the  
21 New Jersey Office on Minority Health Advisory Commission  
22 appointed by the Governor; and 14 public members appointed by the  
23 Governor. The public members shall be chosen from civic and  
24 community leaders and representatives of the employment, criminal  
25 justice, education and health communities, including a representative  
26 of Aspira, Inc., FOCUS, the Black Issues Convention, the Black Men's  
27 Health Project Network, the National Association for the  
28 Advancement of Colored People, the National Organization of Black  
29 Law Enforcement, the Negro Council of Women, the Puerto Rican  
30 Congress, the United Black Interdenominational Clergy, and the Urban  
31 League. One public member shall also be a member of the Latino  
32 clergy.

33 The commission shall be responsible for identifying problems  
34 particular to Black and Latino males, particularly in the areas of  
35 employment, criminal justice, education and health and for advancing  
36 recommendations to address these problems. To effectuate these  
37 goals, the commission will oversee and supervise four separate and  
38 distinct subcommittees, one devoted to each of the targeted areas.  
39 The subcommittee on employment shall focus on access to  
40 employment opportunities, access to workforce preparation,  
41 "Workforce 2000" marketing, business development, entrepreneurship  
42 and training for future labor markets. The subcommittee on the  
43 criminal justice system shall focus on juvenile justice, analysis of the  
44 criminal justice system, relations between police and the community,  
45 victimization at the hands of police, sentencing, violent crime, conflict  
46 resolution, domestic violence, homicide, suicide and deaths and

1 injuries caused by guns. The subcommittee on education shall focus  
2 on drop-out rates, male attitudes toward schooling, academic  
3 achievement, vocational and technical training, higher education and  
4 educational alternatives. The subcommittee on health shall focus on  
5 healthy lifestyles, violence, all types of substance abuse, sexuality,  
6 prevention outreach, role model members and rites of passage  
7 programs, data collection and mental health.

8 The commission will also conduct research to determine the nature  
9 and extent of the problems facing Black and Latino males, identify  
10 existing federal, State and local programs that currently address the  
11 problems of Black and Latino males, develop and implement new  
12 programs and demonstration projects designed to address these  
13 problems, develop and implement community education and public  
14 awareness programs that assist Black and Latino males, develop  
15 strategies to improve the social conditions of Black and Latino males,  
16 provide an annual summary of its activities, findings and  
17 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature and issue any  
18 other periodic reports deemed necessary.

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23 Creates the Commission on the Socially and Economically  
24 Disadvantaged Minority Male Group.