

[First Reprint]  
ASSEMBLY, No. 2326

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 16, 1996

By Assemblymen DORIA, COLLINS and Roberts

1 AN ACT creating the Commission on the Status of Minorities and  
2 making an appropriation.

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

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7 1. There is established a legislative study commission to be known  
8 as the Commission on the Status of Minorities. The purpose of the  
9 commission is to assess the status of social and economic  
10 opportunities for New Jersey's ethnic and racial minorities of color.  
11 Social opportunities include, but are not limited to, opportunities to  
12 earn at all grade levels an equal education, opportunities to access  
13 publicly- and privately-supported health and social services,  
14 opportunities to benefit from governmental efforts promoting and  
15 fostering respect for diversity and multiculturalism and eliminating  
16 discrimination and racism, and opportunities to favorably interact with  
17 the judiciary and law enforcement agencies. Economic opportunities  
18 include, but are not limited to, opportunities to access public and  
19 private capital for small business development, opportunities to  
20 procure home mortgage financing and quality housing, and  
21 opportunities for equal employment in the public and private sectors.

22

23 2. a. The commission shall consist of 20 members. Of four  
24 legislative members, two shall be appointed by the President of the  
25 Senate from among its members thereof, not more than one of whom  
26 shall be of the same political party, and two members shall be  
27 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly from among its  
28 members thereof, not more than one of whom shall be of the same  
29 political party. The remaining 16 public members shall be appointed  
30 as follows: four by the President of the Senate, one of <sup>1</sup>[which] whom<sup>1</sup>  
31 shall be selected from a list submitted by the New Jersey Ethnic and

**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 March 3, 1997.

1 Racial Alliance ("NJERA"); four by the Minority Leader of the Senate,  
2 one of <sup>1</sup>[which] whom<sup>1</sup> shall be selected from a list submitted by the  
3 NJERA; four by the Speaker of the General Assembly, one of <sup>1</sup>[which]  
4 whom<sup>1</sup> shall be selected from a list submitted by the NJERA; and four  
5 appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly, one of  
6 <sup>1</sup>[which] whom<sup>1</sup> shall be selected from a list submitted by the NJERA.  
7 The percentage of public members of African-American and Latino  
8 descent shall approximate the percentage of African-Americans and  
9 Latinos in the State. The percentage of public members of Asian and  
10 Native American descent shall exceed the percentage of Asians and  
11 Native Americans in the State due to their underrepresentation in the  
12 State.

13 b. All appointments shall be made within 30 days following the  
14 effective date of this act. The commission shall convene as soon as  
15 possible after a majority of its authorized membership has been  
16 appointed. At the commission's first meeting, an Executive Director  
17 shall be appointed by the commissioners.

18 c. Legislative members shall serve during their terms of office. A  
19 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

20 d. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation,  
21 but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary and reasonable  
22 costs and expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.  
23 Reimbursement of costs and expenses is limited to the funds  
24 appropriated or otherwise made available to the commission for its  
25 purposes.

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27 3. In its first year, the duties of the commission shall be to:

28 a. review current literature and statistical data concerning ethnic  
29 and racial minorities of color;

30 b. interview experts;

31 c. hire consultants;

32 d. meet and hold hearings at such places and times as it designates;  
33 and

34 e. catalogue and inventory existing public and private resources  
35 aimed at providing social and economic opportunities to the State's  
36 communities of color.

37 In its second year, the duties of the commission shall be to:

38 a. create from the catalogued and inventoried information gathered  
39 in the first year a comprehensive database to be located at and  
40 managed by the Institute for Urban and Public Policy at Rowan  
41 College; the database shall be made available to the public, State and  
42 local governments and nongovernmental organizations, particularly  
43 those representing the State's African American, Asian, Latino and  
44 Native American communities;

45 b. issue interim reports as necessary; and

46 c. issue a final report to the people of New Jersey containing its

1 findings and recommendations regarding the status of opportunities for  
2 minorities of color.

3

4 4. The commission shall be entitled to the assistance and services  
5 of the officials and employees of the State and its political subdivisions  
6 and their departments, boards, bureaus, commissions and agencies as  
7 it may require to discharge its obligations and as may be available to  
8 it.

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10 5. There is appropriated to the commission from the General Fund  
11 the sum of \$300,000 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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13 6. This act shall take effect immediately and expire two years  
14 following the date of the first meeting of the commission.

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Creates the Commission on the Status of Minorities.