

ASSEMBLY, No. 2605

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 16, 1996

By Assemblywoman ALLEN and Assemblyman DeSOPO

1 AN ACT renaming and expanding the scope of the Commission on
2 Racism, Racial Violence and Religious Violence and amending and
3 supplementing the title and body of P.L.1991, J.R.2.

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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. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that because
9 of a lack of social and economic opportunities for New Jersey's ethnic
10 and racial minorities, the scope of the Commission on Racism, Racial
11 Violence and Religious Violence should be expanded to include the
12 study of, and the making of recommendations concerning, the status
13 of these minorities and that the commission should be renamed the
14 Commission on Racism, the Status of Minorities, and Racial Violence
15 and Religious Violence to reflect this expanded scope.

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17 2. The title of P.L.1991, J.R.2 is amended to read as follows:
18 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** establishing a commission to study and make
19 recommendations concerning racism, the status of minorities, and
20 racial violence and religious violence.
21 (cf: P.L.1991, J.R.2, Title)

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23 3. Section 1 of P.L.1991, J.R.2 (C.52:9DD-1) is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 1. There is created a 21-member Commission on Racism, the
26 Status of Minorities, and Racial Violence and Religious Violence to be
27 appointed as follows: two shall be members of the Senate appointed
28 by the President thereof, who shall not be of the same political party;
29 two shall be members of the General Assembly appointed by the
30 Speaker thereof, who shall not be of the same political party; the
31 Attorney General or his designee; the Public Defender or his designee;
32 and 15 public members to be appointed by the Governor. The public
33 members shall be representative of the ethnic, racial and religious
34 diversity of the State's population and shall include representatives

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.

1 from the following groups: the National Association for the
2 Advancement of Colored People, the Puerto Rican Congress, the
3 Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith, the New Jersey Black Issues
4 Convention, the New Jersey Chapter of the National Rainbow
5 Coalition, [and] the American Civil Liberties Union and the Asian-
6 American Political Coalition.

7 (cf: P.L.1994, c.58, s.55)

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9 4. Section 4 of P.L.1991, J.R.2 (C.52:9DD-4) is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 4. The commission shall study the various problems of racism,
12 racial violence and religious violence, shall determine the methods of
13 preventing racially and religiously motivated violence, and shall
14 annually make recommendations thereon to the Governor and to the
15 Legislature.

16 The commission shall also study the status of New Jersey's ethnic
17 and racial minorities in terms of their access to educational
18 opportunities, health care, social services, housing and mortgage
19 financing, employment opportunities, business financing, and fair
20 treatment under the criminal justice system. The commission shall
21 annually make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature
22 regarding one or more of these issue-areas.

23 (cf: P.L.1991, J.R.2, s.4).

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25 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill renames the Commission on Racism, Racial Violence and
31 Religious Violence as the Commission on Racism, the Status of
32 Minorities, and Racial Violence and Religious Violence. This is being
33 done in order to reflect the commission's expanded scope under the
34 bill.

35 In addition to its current functions, the commission shall study the
36 status of New Jersey's ethnic and racial minorities in terms of their
37 access to educational opportunities, health care, social services,
38 housing and mortgage financing, employment opportunities, business
39 financing, and fair treatment under the criminal justice system. The
40 commission shall annually make recommendations to the Governor and
41 the Legislature regarding one or more of these issue-areas.

42 The bill also adds the Asian-American Political Coalition to the list
43 of organizations from which members of the commission shall be
44 selected.

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3 Renames and expands scope of the Commission on Racism, Racial

4 Violence and Religious Violence.