

House Bill 4724
Sponsor: Rep. Joe Young, Jr.
Committee: State Affairs

Complete to 5-10-89

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4724 AS INTRODUCED 4-27-89

The bill would create the Black Affairs Commission Act to establish a Black Affairs Commission in the Department of Management and Budget. Under the bill, the commission would consist of a state representative appointed by the Speaker of the House and a state senator appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, and 17 members appointed by the governor, as follows:

Two members from each of the following would be appointed from a list of six candidates submitted by each:

- The Detroit Association of Black Organizations;
- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP);
- The National Urban League;
- Black ministers.

One member from each of the following would be appointed from a list of three candidates submitted by each:

- Black Greek Letter Organizations;
- The Wolverine Bar Association;
- The National Medical Association;
- The National Association of Black Accountants;
- The Michigan Alliance of Black Educators;
- The National Association of Black Journalists;
- community action agencies;
- The Negro Business and Professional Women Clubs;
- The Opportunities Industrialization Centers Incorporated (OIC).

Members of the commission would serve three-year terms and would receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of commission business. The commission would be subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

Under the bill, the commission would be required to do all of the following:

a) Stimulate and encourage the study and review of the status of black Americans in the state.

b) Recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against black Americans in the exercise of civil and political rights, and in employment.

c) Study, devise and promote effective methods to provide black Americans with the means for skill development, job retraining, and educational advancement.

d) Commission or conduct surveys and studies as necessary or appropriate.

e) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of black Americans to the state.

f) Cooperate with and coordinate activities with the Indian Affairs Commission, the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs, and the Michigan Women's Commission.

g) Monitor, evaluate, investigate, advocate, and initiate programs for the betterment of the black community in the state.

h) Monitor, evaluate, investigate and advocate all public and private programs that have a direct impact on the black communities in the areas of legislation, employment, education, housing, health, and the judicial system.

i) Appoint advisory committees in fields including education, social service, labor and employment, law enforcement, health, legal rights, family relations, and volunteer services.

j) Approve employees required to carry out assigned responsibilities in accordance with Civil Service regulations and within limitations provided by law, and prescribe their duties.

Under the bill, the commission could accept federal funds or private gifts or donations. The acceptance and use of federal funds, however, would not commit state funds and would not place any obligation on the legislature to continue the purpose for which the funds were made available. The commission would be required to submit an annual report to the governor, which would include recommendations based on its studies.