

House Bill 4314

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Young, Jr.

Committee: State Affairs

Complete to 5-12-92

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4314 AS INTRODUCED 2-15-91

The bill would create the "Black Affairs Commission Act," establishing a 19-member Black Affairs Commission in the Department of Civil Rights to act affirmatively on behalf of the black community.

Membership. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Majority Leader would each appoint one member to the commission, and the governor would appoint the remaining 17 members from lists submitted from 13 specified groups: The Michigan Association of Black Organizations, the National Association for the Advancement of colored People (NAACP), the National Urban League, black ministers, the Black Association of State Employees (BASE), Black Greek Letter organizations (i.e., fraternities and sororities), 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, and the Negro Business and Professional Women Clubs.

Commission members would serve for three years and could be reappointed. Commission members would not receive salaries, but would be reimbursed for expenses.

Duties. The commission would be charged with encouraging the study of the status of black Americans, recommending methods of overcoming discrimination, promoting education and job training for black Americans, recognizing the accomplishments of black Americans, and advocating programs for the betterment of the black community. In addition, the commission would coordinate its activities with the Indian Affairs Commission, the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs, and the Michigan Women's Commission, and appoint advisory committees in areas of concern to blacks.

The commission would be required to report annually to the legislature, and would include in its report recommendations based on its studies.

Other provisions. The commission would appoint an executive director and hire staff, all of whom would be civil service employees. It would act in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act, and could accept federal funds. All executive agencies and departments would be required to cooperate fully with the commission.

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