



House Bill 4508

Sponsor: Rep. H. Lynn Jondahl

Committee: Civil Rights

Complete to 4-20-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4508 INTRODUCED 3-17-93

The bill would create the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission Act to serve the needs of Asian Pacific Americans in the state. Under the bill, "Asian Pacific American" would mean a person who had origins or who was regarded in the community as having origins in any of the original peoples of the far east, southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands; and who is identified by an employer in a federal employer information report as "Asian" or "Pacific Islander." The bill would create the Office of Asian Pacific American Affairs and a 15-member Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission in the Department of Management and Budget (DMB). The department would be required to furnish administrative services, secretarial and other staff, professional employees, and office space for the commission and the office.

Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. The commission would be appointed with 90 days after the bill's effective date and would exercise its powers and duties independently of the DMB, except for budget, procurement, and housekeeping functions. Commission members would be of Asian or Pacific Islander origin or descent, appointed by the governor, and representative of Asian Pacific American geographical areas throughout the state. They would serve three-year staggered terms. Commission business would be subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. The commission would be required, among other things, to stimulate and encourage the study and review of the status of Asian Pacific Americans in the state; develop a unified policy and plan of action to serve the needs of Asian Pacific Americans; work to ensure equal access to state services and all levels of education for Asian Pacific Americans; cooperate with other commissions that deal with minority or ethnic affairs; serve as a clearinghouse for incidents of anti-Asian and anti-Pacific Islander American harassment; promote public awareness of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures; and advise the governor, the legislature, and the Office of Asian Pacific American Affairs on the coordination and administration of state programs serving Asian Pacific Americans.

Office of Asian Pacific American Affairs. The director of the office would be selected by the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, with the concurrence of the director of the DMB. Among other requirements, the office would:

--provide the commission with information concerning the problems of Asian Pacific Americans;

--implement commission policy; conduct studies and recommend solutions to the problems of Asian Pacific Americans in the areas of education, employment, civil rights,

health, housing, senior citizens, mental health, social services, commerce, and other related areas;

--recommend to federal, state, and local governmental departments and agencies the creation of services and facilities, as needed;

--serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of information on Asian Pacific American affairs;

--apply for and accept grants and gifts from governmental and private sources.