

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB918**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday February 13, 2020  
**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Introducer:** Wayne  
**One Liner:** Create the Commission on African American Affairs and require a study

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Blood, Brewer, Hansen, M., Hilgers, Kolowski, La Grone,  
Lowe, Hunt

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Justin Wayne  
William King  
Yusuf Kafele  
Juanita Johnson

Craig Beck  
Lazaro Spindola  
Rose Godinez  
David Mitchell

**Representing:**

Introducer  
95.7 The Boss Radio Station  
Black Men United  
Long School Neighborhood Association and 24th Street  
Corridor Alliance  
Open Sky Policy Institute  
Latino American Commission  
ACLU of Nebraska  
Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

This bill proposes the creation of a Commission on African American Affairs. The bill describes the basic purpose of the Commission, and authorizes it to receive and administer funds from state, federal, and other sources. The Commission would have the power to select and pay an executive director, for whom an office would be provided under the bill. The functions of the Commission are also enumerated in the bill.

The fourteen commission members would receive fifty dollars a day while performing Commission duties plus expense reimbursement, and they would vacate office by missing any quarterly or special meeting without a "valid excuse." An executive board consisting of the chairperson and four of the commissioners would be established to administer the Commission between quarterly meetings. The executive board would be empowered to execute contracts valued at not more than \$2000 for consulting services, supplies, and equipment.

Finally, the bill would direct the new Commission, along with the Commission on Indian Affairs and the Commission on

Latino-Americans to complete a "disparity study in government contracting" by December 1, 2022, and by December 1 of each even-numbered year after that. These regular reports would be submitted to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature.

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Tom Brewer, Chairperson