

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 918

Introduced by Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 10, 2020

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to government; to create the Commission on

2 African American Affairs; and to require a study.

3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) There is hereby established the Commission on
2 African American Affairs. For purposes of sections 1 to 7 of this act,
3 commission means the Commission on African American Affairs.

4 (2) The commission shall consist of fourteen members who shall be of
5 African ancestry. Members of the commission shall be appointed by the
6 Governor. The commission may have such nonvoting, ex officio members as
7 shall be appointed by the commission and who need not be of African
8 ancestry. The commission shall elect one of its members as chairperson.

9 (3) Members of the commission shall serve four-year terms or for the
10 unexpired term in the event of a vacancy. As the terms of the voting
11 members expire, their successors shall be appointed by the Governor from
12 a panel of nominees submitted by the public. An appointment for an
13 unexpired term shall follow the same procedure as for initial and
14 subsequent appointments. Voting members shall be eligible for
15 reappointment.

16 Sec. 2. The purpose of the commission is to join representatives of
17 African Americans in Nebraska to do all things which the commission may
18 determine to enhance the cause of African American rights and to develop
19 solutions to problems common to all Nebraska African Americans.

20 Sec. 3. The commission may receive and administer funds from state,
21 federal, and other sources and may employ and fix the compensation of an
22 executive director of its own choosing who shall be an African American
23 person and a legal resident of the State of Nebraska. An office for the
24 executive director shall be provided.

25 Sec. 4. The functions of the commission are to:

26 (1) Promote state and federal legislation beneficial to the African
27 American community in Nebraska;

28 (2) Coordinate programs relating to the African American community
29 in Nebraska regarding housing, education, welfare, medical and dental
30 care, employment, economic development, law and order, and related
31 problems;

1 (3) Work with other state and federal government agencies and
2 federal and state elected officials in the development of programs in
3 areas mentioned in subdivision (2) of this section;

4 (4) Keep the Governor's office apprised of the situation in the
5 African American community in Nebraska;

6 (5) Administer sections 1 to 7 of this act;

7 (6) Provide the public with information and education relevant to
8 African American affairs in Nebraska; and

9 (7) Develop programs to encourage the total involvement of African
10 American people in activities for the common benefit of the African
11 American community.

12 Sec. 5. The members of the commission shall each receive fifty
13 dollars for each day spent in the performance of their duties and shall
14 receive reimbursement for any actual and necessary expenses as provided
15 in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

16 Sec. 6. (1) The commission shall meet at least once every calendar
17 quarter. Meetings shall be held in January, April, July, and October.
18 Special meetings may be called at the request of eight voting members.
19 Eight voting members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
20 transaction of business.

21 (2) The office of any member of the commission who, without a valid
22 excuse, fails to attend quarterly or special meetings shall be vacant.

23 Sec. 7. (1) For purposes of administration of the commission during
24 the interim between regular quarterly meetings, there is hereby
25 established an executive board of the Commission on African American
26 Affairs consisting of the chairperson of the commission and four members
27 of the commission.

28 (2) The executive board may enter into contracts for consultation
29 services, supplies, and equipment, if the amount contracted for does not
30 exceed two thousand dollars in any one contract, and may supervise all
31 programs relating to the affairs of African American people instituted

1 and authorized by the commission.

2 Sec. 8. The Commission on African American Affairs, the Commission
3 on Indian Affairs, and the Commission on Latino-Americans shall complete
4 a disparity study in government contracting on or before December 1,
5 2022, and on or before December 1 of every even-numbered year thereafter.
6 A report of the findings and recommendations from such study shall be
7 submitted to the Governor and electronically to the Clerk of the
8 Legislature.