

**As Introduced**

**127th General Assembly  
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**H. B. No. 432**

**Representatives Stewart, D., McGregor, J.**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Brown, Evans, Flowers, Foley, Heard,  
Skindell, Strahorn, Yates, Yuko**

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**A B I L L**

To enact sections 4112.31, 4112.32, and 4112.33 of 1  
the Revised Code to establish a New African 2  
Immigrants Commission to advocate for the 3  
development and implementation of policies and 4  
programs to address the needs of the State's 5  
sub-Saharan African population. 6

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 4112.31, 4112.32, and 4112.33 of the 7  
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 4112.31. The new African immigrants commission shall:** 9

(A) Gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, 10  
conferences, investigations, and special studies on problems and 11  
programs concerning sub-Saharan African people; 12

(B) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and 13  
contributions of sub-Saharan African people to this state; 14

(C) Stimulate public awareness of the problems of sub-Saharan 15  
African people by conducting a program of public education; 16

(D) Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private 17  
organizations that serve sub-Saharan African people, including the 18

conducting of training programs for community leadership and 19  
service project staff; 20

(E) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state 21  
departments and agencies of the nature, magnitude, and priorities 22  
of the problems of sub-Saharan African people; 23

(F) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state 24  
departments and agencies on, and assist in the development and 25  
implementation of, comprehensive and coordinated policies, 26  
programs, and procedures focusing on the special problems and 27  
needs of sub-Saharan African people, especially in the fields of 28  
education, employment, energy, health, housing, welfare, and 29  
recreation; 30

(G) Propose new programs concerning sub-Saharan African 31  
people to public and private agencies and evaluate for such 32  
agencies existing programs or prospective legislation concerning 33  
sub-Saharan African people; 34

(H) Review and approve grants to be made from federal, state, 35  
or private funds which are administered or subcontracted by the 36  
office of new African immigrant affairs; 37

(I) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the 38  
office of new African immigrant affairs; and 39

(J) Create an interagency council consisting of the following 40  
persons or their authorized representatives: one member of the 41  
senate appointed by the president of the senate; one member of the 42  
house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of 43  
representatives; the directors of administrative services, 44  
agriculture, education, development, health, highway safety, job 45  
and family services, liquor control, mental health, mental 46  
retardation and developmental disabilities, natural resources, 47  
rehabilitation and correction, youth services, transportation, 48  
environmental protection, and budget and management; the 49

chairperson of the Ohio civil rights commission, the 50  
administrators of the bureau of workers' compensation and the 51  
rehabilitation services commission, and an additional member of 52  
the governor's cabinet appointed by the governor. The new African 53  
immigrants commission, by rule, may designate other state officers 54  
or their representatives to be members of the council. The 55  
director of the commission shall be the chairperson of the 56  
council. 57

The interagency council shall provide and coordinate the 58  
exchange of information relative to the needs of sub-Saharan 59  
African people and promote the delivery of state services to such 60  
people. The council shall meet at the call of the chairperson. 61

**Sec. 4112.32.** There is hereby created the new African 62  
immigrants commission consisting of eleven members appointed by 63  
the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The 64  
speaker of the house of representatives shall recommend to the 65  
governor two persons for appointment to the commission, the 66  
president of the senate shall recommend to the governor two such 67  
persons, and the minority leaders of the house and senate shall 68  
each recommend to the governor one such person. The governor shall 69  
make initial appointments to the commission. Of the initial 70  
appointments made to the commission, three shall be for a term 71  
ending October 7, 2009, four shall be for a term ending October 7, 72  
2010, and four shall be for a term ending October 7, 2011. 73  
Thereafter, terms of office shall be for three years, each term 74  
ending on the same day of the same month of the year as did the 75  
term which it succeeds. Each member shall hold office from the 76  
date of appointment until the end of the term for which the member 77  
was appointed. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the 78  
original appointment. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy 79  
occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the 80  
member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the 81

remainder of such term. Any member shall continue in office 82  
subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the 83  
member's successor takes office, or until a period of sixty days 84  
has elapsed, whichever occurs first. At the first organizational 85  
meeting of the commission, the original eleven members shall draw 86  
lots to determine the length of the term each member shall serve. 87

All members of the commission shall be of sub-Saharan African 88  
origin, and shall be American citizens or lawful, permanent, 89  
resident aliens. Members shall be from urban, suburban, and rural 90  
geographical areas representative of sub-Saharan African people 91  
with a numerical and geographical balance of the sub-Saharan 92  
African population throughout the state. 93

The commission shall meet not less than six times per 94  
calendar year. The commission shall elect a chairperson, 95  
vice-chairperson, and other officers from among its members as it 96  
considers advisable. Six members constitute a quorum. The 97  
commission shall adopt rules governing its procedures. No action 98  
of the commission is valid without the concurrence of six members. 99

Each member shall be compensated for work as a member for 100  
each day that the member is actually engaged in the performance of 101  
work as a member. No member shall be compensated for more than one 102  
day each month. In addition, each member shall be reimbursed for 103  
all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of 104  
official business. 105

Sec. 4112.33. The office of new African immigrant affairs is 106  
hereby created. The office shall be accountable to the new African 107  
immigrants commission. The chief administrator of the office shall 108  
be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the commission. 109

The director, with the approval of the commission, shall 110  
appoint such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties of 111  
the office. The employees shall serve at the pleasure of the 112

director. 113

The office shall compile and provide information to the 114  
commission about, and advise it on, solutions to the problems of 115  
sub-Saharan African people. The office shall execute the tasks 116  
assigned to it by the commission which shall include, but not be 117  
limited to, the following: 118

(A) Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all 119  
proposals to meet the needs of sub-Saharan African people that are 120  
submitted to it by public and private agencies; 121

(B) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from governmental 122  
and private sources to be administered by the office or 123  
subcontracted to local agencies; 124

(C) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to local 125  
agencies by the commission; 126

(D) Endeavor to assure that sub-Saharan African people have 127  
access to decision-making bodies in all state and local 128  
governmental departments and agencies; 129

(E) Submit a full written annual report of its activities, 130  
accomplishments, and recommendations to the commission; 131

(F) Establish advisory committees on special subjects as 132  
needed to facilitate and maximize community participation in the 133  
operation of the commission; and 134

(G) Establish with state and local governments and private 135  
business and industry relationships that promote and assure equal 136  
opportunity for sub-Saharan African people in government, 137  
education, and employment. 138

Advisory committees shall be composed of persons representing 139  
community organizations and charitable institutions, public 140  
officials, and such other persons as the office determines. 141