

As Introduced

**127th General Assembly
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S. B. No. 324

Senator Stivers

Cosponsors: Senators Miller, R., Mason, Miller, D., Jacobson

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A B I L L

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

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
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 4112.31. The new African immigrants commission shall:

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

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

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

(D) Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private
organizations that serve sub-Saharan African people, including the
conducting of training programs for community leadership and

<u>service project staff;</u>	20
<u>(E) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state departments and agencies of the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of sub-Saharan African people;</u>	21 22 23
<u>(F) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state departments and agencies on, and assist in the development and implementation of, comprehensive and coordinated policies, programs, and procedures focusing on the special problems and needs of sub-Saharan African people, especially in the fields of education, employment, energy, health, housing, welfare, and recreation;</u>	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
<u>(G) Propose new programs concerning sub-Saharan African people to public and private agencies and evaluate for such agencies existing programs or prospective legislation concerning sub-Saharan African people;</u>	31 32 33 34
<u>(H) Review and approve grants to be made from federal, state, or private funds which are administered or subcontracted by the office of new African immigrant affairs;</u>	35 36 37
<u>(I) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the office of new African immigrant affairs; and</u>	38 39
<u>(J) Create an interagency council consisting of the following persons or their authorized representatives: one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate; one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; the directors of administrative services, agriculture, education, development, health, highway safety, job and family services, liquor control, mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities, natural resources, rehabilitation and correction, youth services, transportation, environmental protection, and budget and management; the chairperson of the Ohio civil rights commission, the</u>	40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 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