

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**H. B. No. 25**

**Representatives Galonski, Somani**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Abdullahi, Baker, Brennan, Brent, Forhan,  
Humphrey, Jarrells, Liston, Miller, A., Miranda, Russo, Upchurch**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 121.34 and 121.341 of the Revised Code to create the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs Commission and the Office of Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs and to make an appropriation. 1  
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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 121.34 and 121.341 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 6  
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**Sec. 121.34.** (A) There is the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs commission consisting of eleven voting members and four ex officio, nonvoting members as provided in divisions (C) and (D) of this section. 8  
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(B) The Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs commission shall do all of the following: 12  
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(1) Gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on problems and programs concerning Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders; 14  
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(2) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to this state; 18  
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(3) Stimulate public awareness of the problems of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders by conducting a program of public education; 21  
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(4) Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private organizations that serve Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, including the conducting of training programs for community leadership and service project staff; 24  
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(5) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state departments and agencies of the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders; 28  
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(6) 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 Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, especially in the fields of education, employment, energy, health, housing, welfare, and recreation; 32  
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(7) Propose new programs concerning Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to public and private agencies and evaluate for such agencies existing programs or prospective legislation concerning Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders; 39  
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(8) Review grants, which are made by federal, state, or private sources, and which are to be administered by the office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs, and approve the administration of the grant by the office or by a subcontractor 43  
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of the office; 47

(9) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the 48  
office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs; 49

(10) Provide and coordinate the exchange of information 50  
relative to the needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders 51  
and promote the delivery of state services to such people. 52

(C) The governor shall appoint eleven voting members to 53  
the commission with the advice and consent of the senate. The 54  
speaker of the house of representatives shall recommend to the 55  
governor two persons for appointment to the commission, the 56  
president of the senate shall recommend to the governor two such 57  
persons, and the minority leaders of the house and senate shall 58  
each recommend to the governor one such person. 59

In addition, two ex officio, nonvoting members of the 60  
commission shall be members of the house of representatives 61  
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two 62  
ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission shall be members 63  
of the senate appointed by the president of the senate. The 64  
speaker shall appoint one member of the house of representatives 65  
from among the representatives who are affiliated with the 66  
political party having a majority in the house of 67  
representatives and one member of the house of representatives 68  
from among the representatives who are affiliated with the 69  
political party having a minority in the house of 70  
representatives. The president shall appoint one member of the 71  
senate from among the senators who are affiliated with the 72  
political party having a majority in the senate and one member 73  
of the senate from among the senators who are affiliated with 74  
the political party having a minority in the senate. 75

After the governor makes initial appointments to the 76  
commission, at the first organizational meeting of the 77  
commission, the initial eleven voting members shall draw lots to 78  
determine the length of the term each member shall serve. Three 79  
shall be for a term ending one year after the effective date of 80  
this section, four shall be for a term ending two years after 81  
the effective date of this section, and four shall be for a term 82  
ending three years after the effective date of this section. 83  
Thereafter, terms of office shall be for three years, except 84  
that members of the general assembly appointed to the commission 85  
shall be members of the commission only so long as they are 86  
members of the general assembly. Each term shall end on the same 87  
day of the same month of the year as did the term which it 88  
succeeds. Each member shall hold office from the date of 89  
appointment until the end of the term for which the member was 90  
appointed. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the 91  
original appointment. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy 92  
occurring before the expiration of the term for which the 93  
member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the 94  
remainder of such term. Any member shall continue in office 95  
after the expiration of the member's term until the member's 96  
successor takes office, or until a period of sixty days has 97  
elapsed, whichever occurs first. 98

(D) All voting members of the commission shall be United 99  
States citizens or lawful, permanent, resident aliens. Voting 100  
members shall be from urban, suburban, and rural geographical 101  
areas representative of Asian-American and Pacific Islander 102  
peoples with a numerical and geographical balance of the Asian- 103  
American and Pacific Islander population throughout the state. 104

(E) The commission shall meet not less than six times per 105  
calendar year. The commission shall elect a chairperson, vice- 106

chairperson, and other officers from its voting members as it 107  
considers advisable. Six voting members constitute a quorum. The 108  
commission shall adopt rules governing its procedures. No action 109  
of the commission is valid without the concurrence of six 110  
members. 111

(F) Each voting member shall be compensated for work as a 112  
member for each day that the member is actually engaged in the 113  
performance of work as a member, in an amount determined under 114  
division (J) of section 124.15 of the Revised Code. No voting 115  
member shall be compensated for more than one day each month. In 116  
addition, each voting member shall be reimbursed for all actual 117  
and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official 118  
business. 119

**Sec. 121.341.** The office of Asian-American and Pacific 120  
Islander affairs is created. The office shall be accountable to 121  
the Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs commission. The 122  
chief administrator of the office shall be the director of 123  
Asian-American and Pacific Islander affairs, who shall be 124  
appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the commission. 125

The director, with the approval of the commission, shall 126  
appoint such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties 127  
of the office. The employees shall serve at the pleasure of the 128  
director. 129

The office shall compile and provide information to the 130  
commission about, and advise it on, solutions to the problems of 131  
Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. The office shall execute 132  
the tasks assigned to it by the commission which shall include 133  
the following: 134

(A) Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all 135

proposals to meet the needs of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders that are submitted to it by public and private agencies; 136  
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(B) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from governmental and private sources to be administered by the office or subcontracted to local agencies; 139  
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(C) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to local agencies by the commission, and ensure that any grant or gift is being used for the public purpose intended; 142  
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(D) Endeavor to ensure that Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to decision-making bodies in all state and local governmental departments and agencies; 145  
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(E) Submit a full written annual report of its activities, accomplishments, and recommendations to the commission; 148  
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(F) Establish advisory committees on special subjects as needed to facilitate and maximize community participation in the operation of the commission. The committees shall be composed of persons representing community organizations and charitable institutions, public officials, and such other persons as the office determines. 150  
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(G) Establish, with state and local governments and private business and industry, relationships that promote and ensure equal opportunity for Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders in government, education, and employment. 156  
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**Section 2.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 160  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 161  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 162  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 163  
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 164

The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 165  
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 166

**Section 3.** 167

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|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| A | API OHIO ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS COMMISSION |        |                    |           |           |
| B | General Revenue Fund                                            |        |                    |           |           |
| C | GRF                                                             | 126400 | Operating Expenses | \$440,944 | \$440,944 |
| D | TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund                                  |        |                    | \$440,944 | \$440,944 |
| E | TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS                                    |        |                    | \$440,944 | \$440,944 |

**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 169  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 170  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 171  
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 172  
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 173  
appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for as 174  
though made in, and are subject to all applicable provisions of, 175  
the main operating appropriations act of the 135th General 176  
Assembly. 177