

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 918

Approved by the Governor August 15, 2020

Introduced by Wayne, 13; Chambers, 11; Blood, 3.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to government; to create the Commission on African American Affairs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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