



General Assembly

Corrected Copy
Committee Bill No. 5614

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 4506



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON THE DISPARATE
IMPACT OF COVID-19.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World
3 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any
4 related mutation thereof recognized by the World Health Organization
5 as a communicable respiratory disease.

6 (b) There is established a Commission on the Disparate Impact of
7 COVID-19, which shall be part of the Legislative Department.

8 (c) The commission, established in subsection (b) of this section, shall
9 consist of the following members:

10 (1) Four appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives
11 who have expertise in evaluating disparities in education, housing and
12 human services;

13 (2) Four appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate who

14 have expertise in evaluating the impact of COVID-19 on essential
15 workers;

16 (3) Three appointed by the majority leader of the House of
17 Representatives, two of whom have expertise in public health and
18 infectious diseases and one of whom shall be a teacher;

19 (4) Three appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, two of
20 whom have expertise in small business and one of whom shall be a
21 housing advocate;

22 (5) Three appointed by the minority leader of the House of
23 Representatives, two of whom have expertise in nursing homes and one
24 of whom shall be a representative of higher education;

25 (6) Three appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, two of
26 whom have expertise in health care delivery and one of whom has
27 expertise in the hospitality industry;

28 (7) Four appointed by the Governor, who have expertise in
29 evaluating racial, economic and health disparities;

30 (8) A representative of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the
31 General Assembly, who shall be appointed by the chairperson of said
32 caucus; and

33 (9) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
34 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee,
35 who shall be a nonvoting ex-officio member.

36 (d) Any member of the commission appointed under subsection (c)
37 of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

38 (e) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later
39 than September 1, 2021, and shall terminate on August 31, 2022,
40 regardless of when the initial appointment was made. Any member of
41 the commission may serve more than one term.

42 (f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
43 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the commission
44 from among the members of the commission. Such chairperson shall
45 schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not
46 later than September 1, 2021.

47 (g) The administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children,
48 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall serve as administrative staff of
49 the commission.

50 (h) Appointed members of the commission shall serve for two-year
51 terms, which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as
52 provided in subsection (e) of this section. Members shall continue to
53 serve until their successors are appointed.

54 (i) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any
55 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the
56 balance of the unexpired term.

57 (j) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
58 transaction of any business.

59 (k) The members of the commission shall serve without
60 compensation, but shall, within available funds, be reimbursed for
61 expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

62 (l) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: (1)
63 To analyze any disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on
64 different racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups in the state; (2) to
65 identify the causes for such disparate impact; (3) to assess whether such
66 disparate impact was worsened or corrected by state responses to the
67 COVID-19 pandemic; (4) to appoint and convene at least two working
68 groups to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, one to focus
69 on the impact on education, housing and human services needs and
70 another to focus on the impact on labor, commerce and public health
71 needs; (5) to hold one or more public hearings as necessary to carry out

72 the purposes of this section; (6) to obtain from any executive
73 department, board, commission or other agency of the state such
74 assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the purposes
75 of this section; (7) to accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose
76 of performing the duties described in this section; (8) to establish bylaws
77 to govern its procedures; and (9) to perform such other acts as may be
78 necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in this
79 subsection.

80 (m) The commission shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the
81 chairperson.

82 (n) Not later than January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
83 commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
84 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the speaker of the
85 House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the
86 majority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of
87 the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the
88 minority leader of the Senate and the chairperson of the Black and
89 Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly on (1) the results of the
90 commission's analysis pursuant to subsection (l) of this section, and (2)
91 recommendations for policy changes and amendments to the general
92 statutes necessary to address the causes for any disparate impact of the
93 COVID-19 pandemic and to improve outcomes during any future
94 pandemic.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a commission to analyze the disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.; REP. MILLER P., 145th Dist.

H.B. 5614