



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 7501



Offered by:  
REP. SIMMONS, 144<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5614

File No. 146

Cal. No. 135

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section,  
4 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World  
5 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any  
6 related mutation thereof recognized by the World Health Organization  
7 as a communicable respiratory disease.

8 (b) There is established a Commission on the Disparate Impact of  
9 COVID-19, which shall be part of the Legislative Department. The  
10 commission shall expire on June 20, 2023, or upon a two-thirds vote of  
11 the membership of the commission, whichever is earlier.

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

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

17 (2) Four appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
18 have expertise in evaluating the impact of COVID-19 on essential  
19 workers;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 (e) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later  
41 than September 1, 2021.

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) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

51 (i) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the  
52 transaction of any business.

53 (j) The members of the commission shall serve without  
54 compensation, but shall, within available funds, be reimbursed for  
55 expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

56 (k) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: (1)  
57 To analyze any disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on  
58 different racial, ethnic, gender and socioeconomic groups in the state;  
59 (2) to identify the causes for such disparate impact; (3) to assess the  
60 effects of federal and state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic on such  
61 disparate impact; (4) to appoint and convene at least two working  
62 groups to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, one to focus  
63 on the impact on education, housing and human services needs and  
64 another to focus on the impact on labor, commerce and public health  
65 needs; (5) to hold one or more public hearings as necessary to carry out  
66 the purposes of this section; (6) to request from any executive  
67 department, board, commission or other agency of the state such  
68 assistance and data as necessary, reasonable and available to carry out  
69 the purposes of this section; (7) to accept any gift, donation or bequest  
70 for the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; (8) to  
71 establish bylaws to govern its procedures; and (9) to perform such other  
72 acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties  
73 described in this subsection.

74 (l) The commission shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the  
75 chairperson.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	New section