

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 5936**

A bill to declare the powers and duties of the commission on Middle Eastern American affairs; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "commission on Middle
2 Eastern American affairs act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Commission" means the commission on Middle Eastern
5 American affairs described in Executive Reorganization Order No.
6 2019-3, MCL 125.1998.

7 (b) "Department" means the department of labor and economic
8 opportunity.

9 (c) "Middle Eastern American" means an individual who has



1 ancestral ties to countries in the Middle East and who resides in
2 this state.

3 Sec. 5. (1) The governor shall appoint the members of the
4 commission. The commission must consist of 15 individuals who have
5 a particular interest or expertise in Middle Eastern American
6 concerns in this state.

7 (2) The term of a member who is appointed to the commission on
8 or after the effective date of this act is 3 years.

9 (3) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the governor shall
10 appoint an individual to fill the vacancy for the balance of the
11 term.

12 (4) The governor may remove a member of the commission for
13 incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or
14 nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause.

15 Sec. 7. (1) The governor shall designate a member of the
16 commission to serve as its chairperson at the pleasure of the
17 governor. The commission may designate a member to serve as its
18 vice-chairperson at the pleasure of the commission. The commission
19 may elect other officers from its members as it considers
20 appropriate.

21 (2) Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this
22 act, the commission shall adopt bylaws for its operation.

23 (3) The commission shall meet at least quarterly at places and
24 times determined by the commission, or more frequently, with 3
25 business days' notice, at the call of the chairperson or at the
26 request of 8 or more members of the commission.

27 (4) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a
28 quorum for the transaction of business of the commission. A vote in
29 favor by the majority of the members of the commission serving is



1 required for any action of the commission. A member of the
2 commission may not vote by proxy.

3 (5) The commission shall conduct its business in compliance
4 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

5 (6) A writing that is prepared, owned, used, possessed, or
6 retained by the commission in performing an official function is
7 subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231
8 to 15.246.

9 (7) A member of the commission shall refer any legal,
10 legislative, and media contacts to the department.

11 Sec. 9. (1) The commission shall do all of the following:

12 (a) Act in an advisory capacity to the governor and the
13 director of the department on policy matters impacting Middle
14 Eastern American communities in this state.

15 (b) Advise the department and make recommendations on all of
16 the following:

17 (i) Changes in state programs, statutes, and policies
18 concerning the coordination and administration of state programs
19 serving Middle Eastern American communities.

20 (ii) The nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of
21 Middle Eastern American communities in this state and the state's
22 policies concerning or impacting those communities.

23 (iii) Improving and protecting the health, safety, and well-
24 being of Middle Eastern American communities across all levels of
25 state and local government.

26 (iv) Attracting potential future residents from Middle Eastern
27 American communities by ensuring that this state is a safe place
28 where members of Middle Eastern American communities and their
29 families can thrive.



1 (c) Review, develop, and recommend policies, administrative
2 actions, legislative changes, or other approaches to eradicate and
3 prevent discrimination and to address other forms of inequality.

4 (d) Promote methods to ensure equal access to state services
5 for Middle Eastern American communities.

6 (e) Work to ensure equal access to all levels of education for
7 Middle Eastern American communities.

8 (f) Serve as a reporting agency for incidents of anti-Middle
9 Eastern American harassment in this state.

10 (g) Publicize and disseminate information on relevant issues,
11 available programs and resources, funding opportunities, and other
12 information that is relevant to advancing the interests of Middle
13 Eastern American communities in this state by addressing the
14 communities' unique problems and needs.

15 (h) Promote Middle Eastern American culture, history, and
16 economic contributions in this state through coordinated efforts
17 and advocacy across state government.

18 (i) Promote public awareness of experiences of Middle Eastern
19 American communities in this state.

20 (j) Secure appropriate recognition for accomplishments and
21 contributions of Middle Eastern American communities in this state.

22 (k) Develop a unified policy and plan of action to serve the
23 needs of Middle Eastern American communities in this state.

24 (l) Stimulate and encourage the study and review of the status
25 of Middle Eastern American communities in this state.

26 (m) Advocate for and initiate programs for the betterment of
27 Middle Eastern American communities in this state.

28 (n) Cooperate with and coordinate activities with all of the
29 following commissions and councils:



(i) This state's Asian Pacific American affairs commission created in Executive Order No. 2009-21.

(ii) The Hispanic/Latino commission of Michigan created under section 2 of 1975 PA 164, MCL 18.302.

(iii) The Black leadership advisory council created in Executive Order No. 2020-163.

(iv) This state's LGBTQ+ commission created in Executive Order No. 2023-5.

(v) The Michigan immigrant and refugee council.

(vi) The Michigan women's commission created in section 1 of 1968 PA 1, MCL 10.71.

(o) Provide other information or advice as requested by the governor or the director of the department.

(2) The commission may do either or both of the following:

(a) As necessary, establish advisory workgroups composed of individuals or entities that participate in the commission's activities to assist the commission in performing its duties under this section.

(b) Adopt, reject, or modify any recommendations of an advisory workgroup described in subdivision (a).

(3) The commission shall exercise its powers and duties under this section independently of the department except for budget, procurement, and management functions, which must be performed under the direction and supervision of the director of the department.

Sec. 11. (1) The department shall do all of the following:

(a) Provide administrative services to the commission.

(b) Make the times and places of commission meetings available to the public.



- 1 (c) Keep the minutes of the commission's meetings.
2 (d) Maintain a record of the commission's actions.
3 (2) Subject to appropriation, the department may provide staff
4 and office space to enable the commission to carry out its powers
5 and duties under section 9.

