

2021 -- H 5781 SUBSTITUTE A

LC000052/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- ESTABLISHING AN ELECTED  
AND APPOINTED MINORITY OFFICIALS COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Hull, Alzate, Barros, Morales, Batista,  
Henries, Giraldo, Felix, and Diaz

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House Special Legislation

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND  
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 160

4 THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED MINORITY OFFICIALS COMMISSION

5 **42-160-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Elected and Appointed Minority  
7 Officials Commission".

8 **42-160-2. Minority defined.**

9 (a) "Minority" means a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United  
10 States and who is:

11 (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa);

12 (2) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or  
13 other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race);

14 (3) Portuguese (a person of Portuguese, Brazilian, or other Portuguese culture or origin,  
15 regardless of race);

16 (4) Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East,  
17 Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands);

18 (5) American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original

1 peoples of North America; or

2 (6) Members of other groups or individuals found to be economically and socially  
3 disadvantaged by the commission established pursuant to § 42-160-3.

4 **42-160-3. Commission established.**

5 There is hereby created and established a commission to be known as the "Elected and  
6 Appointed Minority Officials Commission," hereinafter referred to as the "commission".

7 **42-160-4. Composition of commission.**

8 The commission shall consist of thirteen (13) members: one of whom shall be designated  
9 co-chairperson and shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; one of whom shall be designated  
10 co-chairperson and shall be appointed by the president of the senate; one of whom shall be  
11 designated co-chairperson and shall be appointed by the governor. Each co-chairperson shall be a  
12 distinguished member of the minority community. Each co-chairperson shall select three (3)  
13 persons to serve on the commission. The secretary of state shall appoint one person to serve on the  
14 commission. Commission members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.  
15 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The commission shall  
16 serve without compensation.

17 **42-160-5. Purpose of commission.**

18 The purpose of the commission shall be to establish a permanent record of state and  
19 municipal elected and appointed minority officials holding executive, legislative or judicial office,  
20 from the founding of this state's original settlement by Roger Williams in 1636 to the present. The  
21 records shall state the name, position and period of elected or appointed service of each minority  
22 official.

23 **42-160-6. Appropriations and disbursements.**

24 The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or  
25 bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes of this chapter.

26 **42-160-7. Access to state archives.**

27 The commission shall have access to the state archives created pursuant to chapter 8.1 of  
28 title 42.

29 **42-160-8. Amendment of record.**

30 The commission shall establish rules and procedures for any person to petition the  
31 commission to amend the record of elected and appointed minority officials to include an additional  
32 elected or appointed minority official as a proper individual for inclusion in the record.

33 **42-160-9. Delivery and preservation of record.**

34 The commission shall deliver to the secretary of state and the state archivist the record of

1 [elected and appointed minority officials and all amendments thereto.](#)

2 **42-160-10. Publication.**

3 [The secretary of state shall publish on its official website all information provided by the](#)  
4 [commission pursuant to § 42-160-9.](#)

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

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AND APPOINTED MINORITY OFFICIALS COMMISSION

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1           This act would create an "Elected and Appointed Minority Officials Commission" to create  
2 a record of elected and appointed minority officials from the inception of the state as a settlement  
3 in 1636 by Roger Williams to the present.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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