

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 69**

FINAL READING

Introduced by Spivey, 13; McKinney, 11.

Read first time January 09, 2025

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Commission on African American Affairs;
- 2 to amend sections 81-2601, 81-2602, 81-2603, 81-2604, 81-2606, and
- 3 81-2607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions
- 4 relating to membership, purpose, powers, duties, meetings, and
- 5 reports; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
- 6 sections.
- 7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1       **Section 1.** Section 81-2601, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3       81-2601 (1) There is hereby established the Commission on African  
4 American Affairs. For purposes of sections 81-2601 to 81-2607, commission  
5 means the Commission on African American Affairs.

6       (2) The commission shall consist of fourteen members who shall be of  
7 African ancestry. Members of the commission shall be appointed by the  
8 Governor. One member of the commission shall, at the time of initial  
9 appointment, be an individual who identifies as an immigrant or new  
10 American, and one member shall, at the time of initial appointment, be a  
11 young professional eighteen years of age or older and younger than  
12 twenty-five years of age. The commission may have such nonvoting, ex  
13 officio members as shall be appointed by the commission and who need not  
14 be of African ancestry. The commission shall elect one of its members as  
15 chairperson.

16       (3) Members of the commission shall serve no more than two full,  
17 four-year terms or for the unexpired term in the event of a vacancy. As  
18 the terms of the voting members expire, their successors shall be  
19 appointed by the Governor from a panel of nominees submitted by the  
20 public. An appointment for an unexpired term shall follow the same  
21 procedure as for initial and subsequent appointments. Voting members  
22 shall be eligible for reappointment.

23       (4) The names of all commissioners shall be listed on the  
24 commission's website.

25       **Sec. 2.** Section 81-2602, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
26 amended to read:

27       81-2602 The purpose of the commission is to join representatives of  
28 African Americans and Black Americans across the diaspora in Nebraska to  
29 do all things which the commission may determine to enhance the well-  
30 being of African Americans cause of African American rights and to  
31 develop proactive solutions to problems common to all Nebraska African

1 Americans.

2       **Sec. 3.** Section 81-2603, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
3 amended to read:

4       81-2603 The commission may receive and administer funds from state,  
5 federal, and other sources and may employ and fix the compensation of  
6 personnel ~~an executive director~~ of its own choosing ~~who shall be an~~  
7 ~~African American person and a legal resident of the State of Nebraska.~~ An  
8 office for the executive management ~~director~~ shall be provided.

9       **Sec. 4.** Section 81-2604, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
10 amended to read:

11       81-2604 The functions of the commission are to:

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

14       (2) Coordinate new and existing programs relating to the African  
15 American community in Nebraska regarding key opportunities including, but  
16 not limited to, housing, education, ~~welfare, medical and dental care,~~  
17 employment, economic development, law and order, and related themes  
18 ~~problems~~;

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

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

24       (5) Administer sections 81-2601 to 81-2607;

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

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

30       **Sec. 5.** Section 81-2606, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
31 amended to read:

1       81-2606 (1) The commission shall meet at least quarterly. At least  
2 one of such meetings ~~once~~ every calendar year shall be in the city in  
3 Nebraska with the largest African American population. In addition to the  
4 requirements of the Open Meetings Act, public notice of a meeting shall  
5 be required no later than seven calendar days prior to the date of such  
6 meeting and shall be published on the commission's website and social  
7 media and shared with local media outlets ~~quarter~~. Meetings shall be held  
8 in January, April, July, and October. Special meetings may be called at  
9 the request of eight voting members. Eight voting members of the  
10 commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.  
11 Commission meeting minutes shall be posted on the commission's website.

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

15       (3) The commission shall electronically submit an annual report to  
16 the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature containing a summary of the  
17 following:

18       (a) An overview of the commission's mission, key achievements,  
19 challenges, and primary goals for the coming year;

20       (b) Legislative advocacy and policy impact including the  
21 commission's role in supporting or proposing legislation, policies for  
22 which the commission advocated, supported, or implemented that impacted  
23 the African American community, and the progress made on the policies  
24 described in sections 81-2601 to 81-2607;

25       (c) Community engagement programs including initiatives, outreach,  
26 public forums, and partnerships with community organizations;

27       (d) Economic development initiatives including efforts to improve  
28 economic opportunities within the African American community, employment  
29 programs, small business support, training, and progress in reducing  
30 economic disparities;

31       (e) Education and workforce development including educational

1 initiatives, such as scholarships, mentoring programs, partnerships with  
2 schools, and efforts to ensure African American youth and adults have  
3 access to career advancement opportunities;

4 (f) Health and wellness initiatives including programs that address  
5 health disparities, wellness promotion, and increasing access to health  
6 care resources;

7 (g) Criminal justice and public safety efforts including those that  
8 address disparities in the criminal justice system, programs for formerly  
9 incarcerated individuals, and improvements in police-community relations;

10 (h) Housing and community development including initiatives to  
11 address issues such as affordable housing, eviction prevention efforts,  
12 and partnerships with housing agencies;

13 (i) Metrics and key performance indicators including data that  
14 demonstrates the impact of each program or initiative, such as employment  
15 rates, graduation rates, health outcomes, and recidivism rates in the  
16 African American community;

17 (j) Financial information including the commission's budget, funding  
18 sources, expenditures, grants received, and public funds allocated;

19 (k) Public feedback and a community needs assessment including  
20 feedback from the community on the effectiveness of the commission's work  
21 and priority areas for improvement; and

22 (l) Future goals and strategic plans including goals for the  
23 upcoming year and long-term objectives with a focus on addressing  
24 challenges and advancing the commission's mission.

25 **Sec. 6.** Section 81-2607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
26 amended to read:

27 81-2607 (1) For purposes of administration of the commission during  
28 the interim between regular quarterly meetings, there is hereby  
29 established an executive board of the Commission on African American  
30 Affairs consisting of the chairperson of the commission and four members  
31 of the commission.

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

6           **Sec. 7.**   Original sections 81-2601, 81-2602, 81-2603, 81-2604,  
7 81-2606, and 81-2607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.