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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 909

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE;
RELATING TO AFRICAN AMERICANS; CREATING AN OFFICE OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN AFFAIRS; PRESCRIBING POWERS AND DUTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"African American Affairs Act".

Section 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the African American
Affairs Act:

- A. "fund" means the office on African American
affairs fund; and
- B. "office" means the office on African American
affairs.

Section 3. OFFICE CREATED--POWERS AND DUTIES.--

A. The "office on African American affairs" is
created and attached administratively to the human services

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department.

B. The governor shall appoint a director, who shall work at the pleasure of the governor. The director shall employ other necessary employees, who shall be subject to the provisions of the Personnel Act.

C. The office, in cooperation with the Martin Luther King, Jr. commission, shall:

(1) study issues important to African Americans, including history and culture; education, scholarships and other financial assistance for education and career development; economic and social problems and issues such as jobs, housing, discrimination, family support, youth idleness and crime; and health care, maternal and child health, teen pregnancy, access and other health issues;

(2) secure recognition of African Americans' accomplishments and contributions to New Mexico and the United States;

(3) cooperate with and assist public and private entities dealing with issues important to African Americans;

(4) direct the operations of the office;

(5) where appropriate, conduct periodic conferences throughout the state to inform African Americans of the opportunities available to them through state and private sources, to encourage them to share their history and culture with other New Mexicans and participate in the social and

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1 political processes of their communities and to learn from
2 conference participants their needs and problems; and

3 (6) otherwise act as an advocate for African
4 American citizens of New Mexico.

5 D. Additionally, the office shall:

6 (1) act as a clearinghouse for information
7 important to the African American community;

8 (2) function as the coordinating office for
9 all services and activities of state agencies and programs
10 pertaining to African Americans;

11 (3) encourage funding and implementation of
12 training programs and other opportunities for African
13 Americans;

14 (4) promote and develop programs about
15 community resources designed to meet the needs of African
16 Americans;

17 (5) prepare and submit a budget for the
18 office; and

19 (6) publish an annual report on the activities
20 and services of the office.

21 E. The office may:

22 (1) adopt and promulgate rules in accordance
23 with the State Rules Act to carry out the duties of the office;

24 (2) accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests
25 and devises from any source to be used to carry out its duties;
and

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(3) enter into contracts.

Section 4. FUND CREATED--ADMINISTRATION.--The "office on African American affairs fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of gifts, grants, donations and bequests. Money in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert. The fund shall be administered by the office, and disbursements from the fund shall be made on warrant drawn by the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the director of the office or his authorized representative.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2000.

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