

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

H. B. No. 269

Representatives Miller, A., Crawley

A BILL

To amend section 121.30 and to enact sections 1
121.34, 121.341, and 121.342 of the Revised Code 2
to establish the Commission on Somali and East 3
African Affairs and the Office of Somali and 4
East African Affairs, and to make an 5
appropriation. 6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 121.30 be amended and sections 7
121.34, 121.341, and 121.342 of the Revised Code be enacted to 8
read as follows: 9

Sec. 121.30. As used in sections 121.30 to ~~121.34~~ 121.33 10
of the Revised Code, "Spanish-speaking people" means persons who 11
possess any of the following characteristics: 12

(A) Use Spanish as their primary language; 13

(B) Regard themselves as or are regarded in their 14
community as being of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central 15
American, South American, Spanish, or other Spanish-speaking 16
origin or descent. 17

Sec. 121.34. There is created the commission on Somali and 18

East African affairs consisting of eleven voting members 19
appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the 20
senate and four ex officio, nonvoting members who are members of 21
the general assembly. The speaker of the house of 22
representatives shall recommend to the governor two persons for 23
appointment to the commission, the president of the senate shall 24
recommend to the governor two such persons, and the minority 25
leaders of the house and senate each shall recommend to the 26
governor one such person. Of the initial appointments made to 27
the commission, three shall be for a term ending October 1, 28
2020, four shall be for a term ending October 1, 2021, and four 29
shall be for a term ending October 1, 2022. 30

Two ex officio, nonvoting members of the commission shall 31
be members of the house of representatives appointed by the 32
speaker of the house of representatives and two ex officio, 33
nonvoting members of the commission shall be members of the 34
senate appointed by the president of the senate. 35

The speaker shall appoint one member of the house of 36
representatives from among the representatives who are 37
affiliated with the political party having a majority in the 38
house of representatives and one member of the house of 39
representatives from among the representatives who are 40
affiliated with the political party having the largest minority 41
in the house of representatives. The president shall appoint one 42
member of the senate from among the senators who are affiliated 43
with the political party having a majority in the senate and one 44
member of the senate from among the senators who are affiliated 45
with the political party having the largest minority in the 46
senate. 47

After the initial appointments by the governor, terms of 48

office shall be for three years, except that members of the 49
general assembly appointed to the commission shall be members of 50
the commission only so long as they are members of the general 51
assembly. Each term shall end on the same day of the same month 52
of the year as did the term which it succeeds. Each member shall 53
hold office from the date of appointment until the end of the 54
term for which the member was appointed. Vacancies shall be 55
filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Any 56
member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the 57
expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was 58
appointed shall hold office for the remainder of such term. Any 59
member shall continue in office subsequent to the expiration 60
date of the member's term until the member's successor takes 61
office, or until a period of sixty days has elapsed, whichever 62
occurs first. At the first meeting of the commission, the 63
initial eleven members shall draw lots to determine the length 64
of the term each member shall serve. 65

All members of the commission shall have cultural, 66
academic, economic, or other significant ties to Somalia and the 67
other nations of East Africa as defined by the United States 68
department of state, and shall be United States nationals or 69
lawful permanent residents. Voting members shall be from urban, 70
suburban, and rural geographical areas representative of those 71
nations defined above with a numerical and geographical balance 72
throughout the state. 73

The commission shall meet not less than four times per 74
calendar year. 75

The commission shall elect a chairperson, vice- 76
chairperson, and other officers from among its members as it 77
considers advisable. Six voting members constitute a quorum. The 78

commission shall adopt rules governing its procedures. No action 79
of the commission is valid without the concurrence of six voting 80
members. 81

Each voting member of the commission shall be compensated 82
for work for each day that the member is actually engaged in the 83
performance of work as a member. No voting member shall be 84
compensated for more than one day each month. In addition, each 85
voting member shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary 86
expenses incurred in the performance of official duties as a 87
member of the commission. 88

Sec. 121.341. The commission on Somali and East African 89
affairs shall do all of the following: 90

(A) Gather and disseminate information and conduct 91
hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on 92
problems and programs concerning Somali and East African people; 93

(B) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments 94
and contributions of Somali and East African people to this 95
state; 96

(C) Stimulate public awareness of the problems of Somali 97
and East African people by conducting a program of public 98
education; 99

(D) Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and 100
private organizations that serve Somali and East African people, 101
including the conducting of training programs for community 102
leadership and service project staff; 103

(E) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state 104
departments and agencies of the nature, magnitude, and 105
priorities of the problems of Somali and East African people; 106

(F) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state 107
departments and agencies on, and assist in the development and 108
implementation of, comprehensive and coordinated policies, 109
programs, and procedures focusing on the special problems and 110
needs of Somali and East African people, especially in the 111
fields of education, employment, energy, health, housing, 112
welfare, and recreation; 113

(G) Propose new programs concerning Somali and East 114
African people to public and private agencies and evaluate for 115
such agencies existing programs or prospective legislation 116
concerning Somali and East African people; 117

(H) Review and approve grants to be made from federal, 118
state, or private funds that are administered or subcontracted 119
by the office of Somali and East African affairs; 120

(I) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the 121
office of Somali and East African affairs; 122

(J) Provide and coordinate the exchange of information 123
relative to the needs of Somali and East African people and 124
promote the delivery of state services to such people. 125

Sec. 121.342. There is created the office of Somali and 126
East African affairs. The office shall be accountable to the 127
commission on Somali and East African affairs. The chief 128
administrator of the office shall be the director of Somali and 129
East African affairs, who shall be appointed by and serve at the 130
pleasure of the commission. 131

The director, with the approval of the commission, shall 132
appoint such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties 133
of the office. The employees shall serve at the pleasure of the 134
director. 135

The office shall compile and provide information to the 136
commission about, and advise it on, solutions to the problems of 137
Somali and East African people. The office shall execute the 138
tasks assigned to it by the commission which shall include, but 139
not be limited to, the following: 140

(A) Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all 141
proposals to meet the needs of Somali and East African people 142
that are submitted to it by public and private agencies; 143

(B) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from 144
governmental and private sources to be administered by the 145
office or subcontracted to local agencies; 146

(C) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to 147
local agencies by the commission; 148

(D) Endeavor to assure that Somali and East African people 149
have access to decision-making bodies in all state and local 150
governmental departments and agencies; 151

(E) Submit a full written annual report of its activities, 152
accomplishments, and recommendations to the commission; 153

(F) Establish advisory committees on special subjects as 154
needed to facilitate and maximize community participation in the 155
operation of the commission. The committees shall be composed of 156
persons representing community organizations and charitable 157
institutions, public officials, and such other persons as the 158
office determines. 159

(G) Establish with state and local governments and private 160
business and industry relationships that promote and assure 161
equal opportunity for Somali and East African people in 162
government, education, and employment. 163

Section 2. That existing section 121.30 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed. 164
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Section 3. All items in this section are hereby 166
appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state 167
treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all 168
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are 169
for fiscal year 2020 and those in the second column are for 170
fiscal year 2021. The appropriations made in this act are in 171
addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2020-FY 172
2021 biennium. 173

EAC EAST AFRICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION 174

General Revenue Fund 175

GRF XXX321	Operating Expenses	\$125,000	\$125,000	176
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TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund		\$125,000	\$125,000	177
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TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$125,000	\$125,000	178
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Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 179
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 180
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 181
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 182
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 183
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 184
as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the 185
133rd General Assembly. 186

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all 187
provisions of the main operating appropriations act of the 133rd 188
General Assembly that are generally applicable to such 189
appropriations. 190