

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1081

Approved by the Governor March 10, 1972

Introduced by Terry Carpenter, 48th District; Eugene T. Mahoney, 5th District

AN ACT to create the Commission on Mexican-Americans as prescribed; and to declare an emergency.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. There is hereby created the Commission on Mexican-Americans hereinafter referred to as the commission.

Sec. 2. The commission shall consist of nine members who shall be appointed by the Governor. Of the initial appointees, three shall be appointed to one-year terms, three to two-year terms, and three to three-year terms. Appointees to any vacancy which may occur shall be appointed only for the unexpired term of the member such appointee replaces. After the initial appointees have served their initial terms, all appointees shall be appointed for a three-year term. The Governor or his appointee shall be an ex officio member of the commission with the power to vote.

Sec. 3. The commission shall elect one of its members as chairman and one as secretary to serve a one-year term.

Sec. 4. The functions of the commission shall be to:

(1) Gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences, and special studies on problems and programs concerning Mexican-Americans;

(2) Coordinate, assist, and cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the needs of the Mexican-Americans especially in the fields of education, employment, health, housing, welfare, and recreation;

(3) Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private organizations which serve Mexican-Americans;

(4) Propose new programs concerning Mexican-Americans;

(5) Evaluate existing programs and proposed legislation concerning Mexican-Americans;

(6) Stimulate public awareness of the problems of Mexican-Americans by conducting a program of public education and encourage the Governor and the Legislature to develop programs to deal with these problems; and

(7) Conduct training programs for community leadership and service project staff.

Sec. 5. The commission shall meet at least four times a year. The chairman may call additional meetings. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 6. Members shall receive twenty-five dollars per day for work performed as part of their official duties. Members shall receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses on the same basis and subject to the same conditions as full-time state employees.

Sec. 7. The commission shall employ a director. He shall be qualified by education and experience to assume the responsibilities of such office.

Sec. 8. The director shall be the administrative officer of the commission and shall serve the commission by gathering information, disseminating findings of fact and other information, forwarding proposals and evaluations to the Governor, the Legislature, and various state agencies, carrying out public education programs, conducting hearings and conferences, and performing other duties necessary for the proper operation of the commission.

Sec. 9. The commission may employ any subordinate personnel necessary to assist the director in the performance of his duties, including clerical staff and technical advisors. The commission may employ assistant directors if necessary to develop, assist, and cooperate with local commissions on Mexican-Americans.

Sec. 10. The commission shall have all powers necessary to carry out the functions and duties specified in this act, including power to establish advisory committees on special subjects, to solicit and accept gifts and grants, and to contract with public and private groups to conduct its business.

Sec. 11. Since an emergency exists, this act shall be in full force and take effect, from and after its passage and approval, according to law.