

1 HB534
2 176750-2
3 By Representative Knight
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 12-APR-16

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ENROLLED, An Act,

To create the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs;
to provide for the position of Director of the Governor's
Office of Minority Affairs as a cabinet level position; to
provide for the appointment, service, and duties of the
director; and to create the Advisory Board on Minority
Affairs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. There is established the Governor's
Office of Minority Affairs, to advise the Governor on issues
affecting minorities, including women, focusing on the
improvement of the overall quality of life of minorities,
specifically in the areas of education, health, economics,
political participation and empowerment, housing, employment,
civil rights, criminal justice, and race relations.

Section 2. The office shall be managed by a Director
of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, who shall be
appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The
position of director shall be a Governor's cabinet position.

Section 3. (a) The director shall act as a liaison
between minority communities and the Governor, with duties to
do all of the following:

(1) Conduct community outreach throughout the state
to assess and address issues facing women and minorities.

1 (2) Ensure that all women and minorities are better
2 represented and receive equal access in areas such as business
3 development, education, health care, housing, government
4 services, and criminal justice matters.

5 (3) Encourage public debate on issues affecting
6 Alabama minority populations, including open access to public
7 services and fair and equitable implementation of public
8 policy.

9 (4) Assess efforts by state agencies to assist women
10 and minorities, promoting self-sufficiency through education
11 and training.

12 (5) Collaborate with business and industry
13 representatives, the Alabama Workforce Council, higher
14 education stakeholders, and the Alabama Small Business
15 Commission to facilitate identification of minority and
16 women-owned businesses and to provide recommendations on how
17 to better foster economic development opportunities for
18 minority and women-owned businesses, with the goal of
19 increasing the number of minority and women-owned businesses.

20 (6) Advise the Governor concerning the coordination
21 and administration of state programs serving minority
22 populations.

23 (7) Monitor existing legislation and programs
24 designed to meet the needs of minorities.

1 (8) Research and analyze all areas affecting the
2 quality of life of minorities.

3 (b) The director shall perform other duties
4 affecting women and minorities, as assigned by the Governor.

5 Section 4. The Advisory Board on Minority Affairs is
6 created to act as a resource for the director in an advisory
7 capacity. The board shall be comprised of representatives from
8 various racial and ethnic communities, female representation,
9 state government officials, and experts in education and work
10 force. The board shall be appointed by and serve at the
11 pleasure of the Governor.

12 Section 5. This act shall become effective
13 immediately following its passage and approval by the
14 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

