

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

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8 SYNOPSIS: Currently the Governor's Office of Minority
9 Affairs is created by an executive order. The
10 office is managed by a Director of the Governor's
11 Office of Minority Affairs. The Advisory Board of
12 Minority Affairs is also established in the
13 executive order.

14 This bill would establish the office by
15 statute and would establish the position of
16 director as a cabinet level position.

17 The bill would also create the Advisory
18 Board on Minority Affairs.

19
20 A BILL
21 TO BE ENTITLED
22 AN ACT

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24 To create the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs;
25 to provide for the position of Director of the Governor's
26 Office of Minority Affairs as a cabinet level position; to
27 provide for the appointment, service, and duties of the

1 director; and to create the Advisory Board on Minority
2 Affairs.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

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

24 (3) Encourage public debate on issues affecting
25 Alabama minority populations, including open access to public
26 services and fair and equitable implementation of public
27 policy.

1 (4) Assess efforts by state agencies to assist women
2 and minorities, promoting self-sufficiency through education
3 and training.

4 (5) Collaborate with business and industry
5 representatives, the Alabama Workforce Council, higher
6 education stakeholders, and the Alabama Small Business
7 Commission to facilitate identification of minority and
8 women-owned businesses and to provide recommendations on how
9 to better foster economic development opportunities for
10 minority and women-owned businesses, with the goal of
11 increasing the number of minority and women-owned businesses.

12 (6) Advise the Governor concerning the coordination
13 and administration of state programs serving minority
14 populations.

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

17 (8) Research and analyze all areas affecting the
18 quality of life of minorities.

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

21 Section 4. The Advisory Board on Minority Affairs is
22 created to act as a resource for the director in an advisory
23 capacity. The board shall be comprised of representatives from
24 various racial and ethnic communities, female representation,
25 state government officials, and experts in education and work
26 force. The board shall be appointed by and serve at the
27 pleasure of the Governor.

1 Section 5. This act shall become effective
2 immediately following its passage and approval by the
3 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.