

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona office of African-American affairs

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HB 2627

Introduced by
Representatives Crews: Aguilar, Austin, Contreras P, Gutierrez, Hernandez
M, Ortiz, Quiñonez, Schwiebert, Seaman, Terech, Travers, Villegas;
Senators Epstein, Mendez

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 41-531, 41-532, 41-533 AND 41-534, ARIZONA REVISED
STATUTES; RELATING TO THE ARIZONA OFFICE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Heading change

3 The article heading of title 41, chapter 3, article 3, Arizona
4 Revised Statutes, is changed from "ARIZONA COMMISSION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN
5 AFFAIRS" to "ARIZONA OFFICE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS".

6 Sec. 2. Section 41-531, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
7 read:

8 41-531. Arizona office of African-American affairs

9 A. The Arizona ~~commission~~ OFFICE of African-American affairs is
10 established and consists of the governor, the superintendent of public
11 instruction, the director of the department of health services, the
12 director of the department of transportation, the attorney general, the
13 director of the department of economic security, the director of the
14 office of tourism and the chief executive officer of the Arizona commerce
15 authority, or their representatives, who shall be ex officio members, and
16 nine members who are appointed by the governor, seven of whom are
17 African-American and two of whom are not African-American.

18 B. The term of office of each appointed member is three years.
19 Each member shall hold office until the member's successor is appointed
20 and qualifies. Appointment to fill a vacancy caused other than by
21 expiration of a term shall be for the unexpired portion of the term.

22 C. Members of the ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall serve without
23 compensation.

24 D. The ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall elect a chairperson and a
25 ~~vice-chairperson~~ VICE CHAIRPERSON from among its appointed members and
26 adopt rules for the conduct of meetings. A record shall be kept of all
27 proceedings and transactions.

28 E. Section 41-2955, subsection D does not apply to the ~~commission~~
29 OFFICE.

30 F. The ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall meet at least quarterly on the
31 second Thursday of the first month of each quarter and may hold additional
32 meetings on the call of the chairperson. A majority of the appointed
33 members of the ~~commission~~ OFFICE constitute a quorum for the transaction
34 of business, but ex officio members may vote. Members who fail to attend
35 three consecutive meetings are deemed to have resigned.

36 G. The appointed members of the ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall employ,
37 subject to chapter 4, article 4 of this title, an executive director of
38 the ~~commission~~ OFFICE who shall not be a member of the ~~commission~~ OFFICE.
39 The director is eligible to receive compensation as determined by the
40 ~~commission~~ OFFICE from monies available in the Arizona ~~commission~~ OFFICE
41 of African-American affairs fund established by section 41-533. The
42 ~~commission~~ OFFICE may employ clerical, professional and technical
43 personnel subject to chapter 4, article 4 of this title and monies
44 available in the Arizona ~~commission~~ OFFICE of African-American affairs
45 fund and shall prescribe their duties and determine their compensation.

1 Sec. 3. Section 41-532, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
2 read:

3 41-532. Powers and duties; information; report

4 A. The ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall assist and support state and federal
5 agencies in assisting African-Americans in this state to develop mutual
6 goals, to design projects for achieving goals and to implement their ~~plans~~
7 PROJECTS. The ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall also:

8 1. Advise the governor on policies, procedures, legislation and
9 rules that affect the African-American community and that will enable this
10 state to be responsive to the needs of the African-American community.

11 2. Assist local African-American community groups in developing
12 strategies and programs that will expand and enhance the social, cultural
13 and economic status of the African-American community.

14 3. Develop, review and recommend to the governor policies in the
15 areas of health and human services, housing, education, employment,
16 business formation and development, public accommodations and contracting
17 and procedures.

18 4. Serve as a liaison to federal, state and local agencies to
19 ensure that programs affecting African-Americans are effectively used and
20 that benefits accrue equitably to members of the African-American
21 community.

22 5. Work for greater understanding and improved relationships
23 between African-Americans and non-African-Americans by creating an
24 awareness of the legal, social and economic needs of African-Americans in
25 this state.

26 6. Where appropriate, conduct periodic conferences throughout this
27 state to inform African-Americans of the opportunities available to them
28 through state and private sources, to encourage them to share their
29 history and culture with other Arizonans, to participate in the social and
30 political processes of their communities and to learn from conference
31 participants about their needs and problems.

32 B. State and local public officers and employees, on request, shall
33 furnish the ~~commission~~ OFFICE with information that it may require for its
34 purposes except information that is not subject to disclosure pursuant to
35 a provision of law.

36 C. The ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall make a written annual report giving
37 an account of its proceedings, transactions, findings and recommendations
38 to the governor and the legislature and may submit the recommendations to
39 the legislature in the form of proposed legislation.

40 D. The ~~commission~~ OFFICE may apply for, accept, receive and spend
41 public and private gifts or grants of money or property on those terms and
42 conditions as imposed by the donor and for implementation of the
43 ~~commission's~~ OFFICE'S internal operations.

1 E. The ~~commission~~ OFFICE may accept, receive and spend fees
2 collected at the Arizona African-American town hall to defer expenses for
3 the Arizona African-American town hall.

4 Sec. 4. Section 41-533, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
5 read:

6 41-533. Arizona office of African-American affairs fund;
7 exemption

8 The Arizona ~~commission~~ OFFICE of African-American affairs fund is
9 established. The monies in the Arizona ~~commission~~ OFFICE of
10 African-American affairs fund are continuously appropriated to the Arizona
11 ~~commission~~ OFFICE of African-American affairs. The fund consists of
12 monies received pursuant to section 41-532. The state treasurer shall
13 invest and divest all monies in the Arizona ~~commission~~ OFFICE of
14 African-American affairs fund as provided by section 35-313, and monies
15 earned from investment shall be credited to the fund. The Arizona
16 ~~commission~~ OFFICE of African-American affairs shall administer the fund.
17 The monies in the fund are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190
18 relating to lapsing of appropriations.

19 Sec. 5. Section 41-534, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
20 read:

21 41-534. African-American legislative day

22 A. The Arizona ~~commission~~ OFFICE of African-American affairs shall
23 annually facilitate an African-American legislative day on the second
24 Thursday and Friday of February. The ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall invite the
25 legislature, THE governor and other elected officials to pay tribute to
26 the history and culture of African-Americans and their contributions to
27 the prosperity and cultural diversity of the United States. The
28 ~~commission~~ OFFICE shall schedule activities and discussions between state
29 and community leaders on issues affecting African-American communities.

30 B. African-American legislative day is not a legal holiday.