

Title 18A.  
Subtitle 2.  
Chapter 4.  
Article 6. (New)  
Asian American  
Cultural and  
Educational  
Programs  
§§1-4  
C.18A:4-51 to  
18A:4-54

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 410, *approved January 18, 2022*  
Senate, No. 3764 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the Commission on Asian <sup>1</sup>American<sup>1</sup>  
2 Heritage and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. The 2010 United States Census estimated that there were  
10 approximately 17.3 million Asian Americans residing in the United  
11 States, or roughly 5.6 percent of the nation's population, with the  
12 largest subgroups being Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans,  
13 Indian Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Korean Americans, and  
14 Japanese Americans.

15 b. According to the census, almost three-quarters of all Asian  
16 Americans live in just 10 states (California, New York, Texas, New  
17 Jersey, Hawaii, Illinois, Washington, Florida, Virginia, and  
18 Pennsylvania). In fact, only two states, Hawaii and California, had a  
19 higher percentage of Asian Americans in their total populations  
20 than New Jersey.

21 c. By 2016, in its estimate of the nation's population, the  
22 census bureau estimated that the population of Asian Americans  
23 had grown to approximately 21 million.

24 d. New Jersey is home to a significant number of people of  
25 Asian descent. According to the most recent American Community  
26 Survey, the Asian population of New Jersey is 9.4 percent of the  
27 total population of the State, significantly higher than the national  
28 percentage.

29 e. The histories of our nation and our State have been  
30 significantly enriched by the heritage of people of Asian descent.  
31 Our nation and our State have benefitted substantially from the

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted December 16, 2021.

1 influences and contributions of these men, women, and children and  
2 their culture, history, and heritage.

3 f. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the positive  
4 aspects of the culture, music, art, language, history, and people of  
5 Asian heritage.

6 g. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that the culture,  
7 history, and heritage of people of Asian descent are a proper  
8 concern for all people, particularly students enrolled in the schools  
9 of the State.

10 h. It is appropriate and desirable that programs, workshops,  
11 institutes, seminars, and other teacher-training activities for the  
12 study of the culture, history, and heritage of people of Asian  
13 descent be conducted at the high schools and institutions of higher  
14 education in this State.

15 i. It is fitting and proper to establish a permanent State-level  
16 commission to survey, design, encourage, and promote the  
17 implementation of Asian <sup>1</sup>or Asian American<sup>1</sup> cultural and  
18 educational programs in this State, with responsibility for the  
19 coordination of events that will provide appropriate awareness and  
20 memorialization of the culture, history, heritage, and language of  
21 people of Asian <sup>1</sup>or Asian American<sup>1</sup> descent on a regular basis  
22 throughout the State.

23

24 2. a. The Commission on Asian <sup>1</sup>American<sup>1</sup> Heritage is  
25 created and established in the Executive Branch of the State  
26 Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions of  
27 Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,  
28 the commission is allocated within the Department of Education,  
29 but notwithstanding this allocation, the commission shall be  
30 independent of any supervision or control by the department or any  
31 board or officer thereof.

32 The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the  
33 Commissioner of Education, ex officio, or a designee, the chair of  
34 the executive board of the Presidents' Council, ex officio, or a  
35 designee, and 19 public members.

36 Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public  
37 members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, at least  
38 one of whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Asian  
39 studies<sup>1</sup>**【or culture】** , Asian American studies, or related  
40 disciplines<sup>1</sup>; five public members shall be appointed by the Speaker  
41 of the General Assembly, at least one of whom shall have a Masters'  
42 degree in an area of Asian studies <sup>1</sup>**【or culture】** , Asian American  
43 studies, or related disciplines<sup>1</sup>; and nine public members shall be  
44 appointed by the Governor, no less than four of whom shall at the  
45 time of their appointment have at least a Masters' degree in an area  
46 of Asian studies <sup>1</sup>**【or culture】** , Asian American studies, or related  
47 disciplines<sup>1</sup>. The public members shall be residents of the State  
48 who have served prominently as spokespersons for, or as leaders of,

1 organizations in the Asian <sup>1</sup>or Asian American<sup>1</sup> heritage community  
2 which serve members of religious, ethnic, national heritage, or  
3 social groups or who are experienced in the field of Asian <sup>1</sup>or Asian  
4 American<sup>1</sup> heritage education. To the greatest extent practicable,  
5 they shall be chosen with due regard to provide the commission  
6 with broad regional representation and ethnic diversity. At least  
7 one-half of the public members shall be of Asian <sup>1</sup>or Asian  
8 American<sup>1</sup> descent.

9 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a  
10 term of three years, except that of the initial members appointed:  
11 one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member  
12 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and two  
13 members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one  
14 year; two members appointed by the President of the Senate, two  
15 members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and  
16 three members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of  
17 two years; and two members appointed by the President of the  
18 Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the General  
19 Assembly, and four members appointed by the Governor shall serve  
20 for terms of three years. Public members shall be eligible for  
21 reappointment and shall serve until their successors are appointed  
22 and qualified. The term of the successor of any incumbent shall be  
23 calculated from the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A  
24 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in  
25 the same manner as the original appointment, but for the unexpired  
26 term only.

27 c. The members of the commission shall serve without  
28 compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all  
29 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

30 d. The commission annually shall elect a chairperson from  
31 among its members. It shall meet upon the call of the chair or of a  
32 majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority  
33 of the authorized membership of the commission shall be required  
34 for the conduct of official business.

35 e. The commission shall appoint an executive director, who  
36 shall serve at its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by training  
37 and experience to perform the duties of the office.

38  
39 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities  
40 and duties:

41 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and  
42 experience of its members, assistance and advice to the public and  
43 nonpublic schools of this State with respect to the implementation  
44 of <sup>1</sup>historical,<sup>1</sup> cultural<sup>1,1</sup> and educational programs concerning  
45 people of Asian <sup>1</sup>and Asian American<sup>1</sup> descent;

46 b. <sup>1</sup>To infuse the history of Asian Americans into the social  
47 studies curriculum in order to provide an accurate, complete, and  
48 inclusive history;

1     c. To ensure that New Jersey teachers are equipped to  
2 effectively teach the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in  
3 Social Studies;

4     d.<sup>1</sup> To meet with county and local school officials and other  
5 interested public and private organizations, for the purpose of  
6 assisting with the planning, coordination, or modification of courses  
7 of study dealing with issues, matters and subjects concerning or  
8 relating to the culture, history, and heritage of people of Asian <sup>1</sup>or  
9 Asian American<sup>1</sup> descent;

10     [c.] e.<sup>1</sup> To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of  
11 Asian <sup>1</sup>and Asian American<sup>1</sup> heritage cultural awareness and  
12 educational programs presently being incorporated into the  
13 curricula and taught in the school systems of this State; to inventory  
14 those Asian <sup>1</sup>and Asian American<sup>1</sup> heritage exhibits and resources  
15 which may be incorporated into courses of study at various  
16 locations throughout the State and, upon request, to assist the  
17 Department of Education and other educational agencies in the  
18 development and implementation of Asian <sup>1</sup>and Asian American<sup>1</sup>  
19 heritage cultural awareness and educational programs. In  
20 furtherance of this responsibility, the commission shall be  
21 authorized to contact and cooperate with existing Asian <sup>1</sup>and Asian  
22 American<sup>1</sup> heritage public or private nonprofit resource  
23 organizations and may act as a liaison concerning issues and topics  
24 involving and relating to the culture, history, and heritage of Asians  
25 <sup>1</sup>and Asian Americans<sup>1</sup> to members of the United States Senate and  
26 House of Representatives, and the New Jersey Senate and General  
27 Assembly;

28     [d.] f.<sup>1</sup> To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are  
29 willing to share their knowledge and experience in classrooms,  
30 seminars, and workshops on subjects concerning and relating to the  
31 culture, history, and heritage of people of Asian <sup>1</sup>and Asian  
32 American<sup>1</sup> descent. These volunteers may be scholars, clergymen,  
33 community relations professionals, and other persons who, by  
34 virtue of their experience, training, or interest, have acquired  
35 personal or academic knowledge of the culture, history, and  
36 heritage of Asians <sup>1</sup>and Asian Americans<sup>1</sup> and who are willing to  
37 share that knowledge with students and teachers;

38     [e.] g.<sup>1</sup> To coordinate events observing the culture, history,  
39 and heritage of people of Asian <sup>1</sup>and Asian American<sup>1</sup> descent and  
40 to seek volunteers who are willing and able to participate in  
41 commemorative events that will enhance student awareness of the  
42 significance of the culture, history, and heritage of Asians <sup>1</sup>and  
43 Asian Americans<sup>1</sup>;

44     [f.] h.<sup>1</sup> To prepare reports for the Governor and the  
45 Legislature regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate  
46 the inclusion of <sup>1</sup>Asian American history,<sup>1</sup> Asian heritage studies

1 and special programs memorializing the culture, history, and  
2 heritage of Asians <sup>1</sup>and Asian Americans<sup>1</sup> in the educational system  
3 of this State; and

4 <sup>1</sup>[g.] i.<sup>1</sup> To develop, in consultation with the Department of  
5 Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and  
6 topics concerning and relating to the culture, history, and heritage  
7 of people of Asian <sup>1</sup>and Asian American<sup>1</sup> descent. To the greatest  
8 extent practicable, each board of education shall incorporate those  
9 guidelines as part of the curriculum for its district's elementary and  
10 secondary school students.

11  
12 4. a. The commission is authorized to call upon any  
13 department, office, division, or agency of the State, or of any  
14 county, municipality, or school district of the State, to supply such  
15 data, program reports and other information, personnel, and  
16 assistance as it deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities  
17 under this act.

18 b. These departments, offices, divisions, and agencies shall, to  
19 the extent possible, and not inconsistent with any other law of this  
20 State, cooperate with the commission and shall furnish it with such  
21 information, personnel, and assistance as may be necessary or  
22 helpful to accomplish the purposes of this act.

23  
24 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

25  
26  
27  
28  
29

---

Establishes Commission on Asian American Heritage in DOE.