

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE BILL 1842

By: Shumate

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating the Multi-Ethnic History Education Commission; providing for membership; providing for appointment of members and terms; providing for officers, meetings, travel reimbursement, assistance, and staffing; establishing responsibilities and duties of the Commission; requiring an annual report; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-120 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Multi-Ethnic History Education Commission. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

1. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee;
2. The Secretary of State or a designee;
3. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society or a designee;
4. Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
5. Four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate; and
6. Four members appointed by the Governor.

B. Appointments to the Commission shall include members who are residents of the state, represent a broad geographical area of the state, and are ethnically diverse. Appointments may include, but

are not limited to, persons who are knowledgeable or have an interest in ethnic history, or that represent or are involved in organizations that educate the public on ethnic or historical subjects.

C. The initial appointments to the Commission shall be made not later than September 1, 2005. Each member shall serve for a term of three (3) years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment. A vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, but for the unexpired term only.

D. For the first year, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a chair of the Commission from among the members, and the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate shall designate a vice-chair of the Commission from among the members. Thereafter, the members shall annually elect a chair and vice-chair from among the membership.

E. Meetings of the Commission shall be held at the call of the chair. The Commission shall meet at such time as established by the chair.

F. Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for serving on the Commission, but shall receive travel reimbursement by the appointing authority in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act. State agency members of the Commission shall receive travel reimbursement from their employing agency.

G. As necessary to carry out its charge, the Commission may seek assistance from specialists in ethnic history or history education.

H. Staffing for the Commission shall be provided by the State Department of Education.

I. The Commission shall have the following responsibilities and duties:

1. To provide assistance and advice to public schools in the state with respect to the implementation of ethnic history education awareness programs, textbooks and educational materials concerning ethnic minorities and their treatment and contributions throughout history;

2. Survey and catalog the extent and breadth of education concerning multi-ethnic populations and their contributions to our society presently being incorporated into the curricula and textbooks taught in the public schools in the state;

3. Inventory ethnic-related history memorials, exhibits and resources in the state which may be incorporated into courses of study in public schools in the state;

4. Assist the State Department of Education and other educational agencies in the development and implementation of multi-ethnic history education programs;

5. Act as a liaison with textbook publishers and the State Textbook Committee and other persons or entities to facilitate the inclusion of multi-ethnic history in the textbooks and curricula of public schools in the state;

6. Compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars, and workshops with students and teachers on the subject of multi-ethnic history;

7. Coordinate events memorializing multi-ethnic history and populations in this country; and

8. Develop, in conjunction with the State Department of Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of information about multi-ethnic history and populations.

J. The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate regarding its findings, recommendations, and activities.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

50-1-5757      KB      01/19/05