

10-1-1971

# Proposed Draft of an Act to Create a Commission on Migrant Affairs and to Prescribe Its Duties and Powers

P. Robert Rigney Jr.

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## Recommended Citation

Rigney, P. Robert Jr., "Proposed Draft of an Act to Create a Commission on Migrant Affairs and to Prescribe Its Duties and Powers" (1971). *New Dimensions in Legislation*. Paper 21.

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## PROPOSED DRAFT

## AN ACT

To create a commission on migrant affairs and to prescribe its duties and powers.

*THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:*

Sec. 1. There is hereby established a commission to be known as the "Commission on Migrant Affairs" under the Executive Offices of the Governor. The commission shall consist of forty (40) members plus nine (9) additional members during the months of April through September. Twelve (12) of the members shall be the following the Director of the Department of Agriculture or his designee; the Director of the Department of Commerce or his designee; the Director of the Department of Education or his designee; an official representative of the Executive Offices of the Governor; the Director of the Department of Labor or his designee; the Chairman of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission or his designee; the Director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission or his designee; the Director of the Michigan Office of Economic Opportunity or his designee; the Director of the Department of Natural Resources or his designee; the Director of the Office of Comprehensive Health Planning or his designee; the Director of the Department of Public Health or his designee; and the Director of the Department of Social Services or his designee. There shall also be three (3) official members selected from a list submitted by the United Migrants for Opportunities, Incorporated. UMOI is a private non-profit corporation funded under Title IIIB of the Economic Opportunity Act to provide services to migrant and seasonal agricultural workers and their families. In addition, there shall be five (5) members selected from lists submitted in writing to the Governor from independent organizations dealing with migrant affairs. At least one of these members shall be from the Michigan Migrant Ministry. Michigan Migrant Ministry is a department of the Michigan Council of Churches which promotes and serves an inter-denominational program for the needs of migratory farm workers.

The remaining twenty (20) members shall be regional representatives selected from lists submitted by each county migrant council, and each such member selected shall be an ex-migrant. For the purposes of this act, the regional divisions are taken from the official state regional map for State Planning and Development Regions. There shall be two (2) members selected from Region One; one (1) member selected from Region Two; and one (1) member selected from Region Three; four (4) members selected from Region Four; one (1) member selected from Region Five; and (1) member selected from Region Six; three (3) members selected from Region Seven; four (4) members selected from Region Eight; and three (3) members selected from Region Nine. In addition, there shall be one additional member from each region during the

months of April through September who shall be a migrant. A migrant is an individual who earns at least one half of his income from the harvesting of seasonal agriculture crops and travels to two or more locations to engage in this activity. These members shall be chosen from lists submitted from regional meetings of the county migrant councils in the month of March. The members of this commission shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, within thirty (30) days after this act shall take effect. All members shall serve for a term of one (1) year, and at the expiration of that term may be reappointed to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Vacancies may be filled for any unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as appointments are made for a full term. The members of this commission shall be selected without partisan consideration. The members shall serve without compensation other than for their necessary and proper expenses, which expenses are to be audited and paid from funds appropriated for this purpose.

**Sec. 2. The commission shall:**

- (a) Provide comprehensive state-wide planning for the seasonal visits of migrant farmworkers.
- (b) Provide comprehensive state-wide planning to confront the problems of the settled-out migrant.
- (c) Coordinate all migrant-related efforts within the state.
- (d) Make recommendations to the Governor for immediate action where such need is determined by the commission.
- (e) Formulate policies to effectuate the purposes of this act and make recommendations to agencies and officers of the state or local subdivisions of government on such policies and purposes.

**Sec. 3.** A chairman shall be selected by the Governor whose duty shall be that of calling meetings of the commission at least quarterly, but not oftener than twelve (12) times a year, and presiding over such meetings. The commission may authorize committees of such commission to meet during interims between meetings.

**Sec. 4.** There shall be a Steering Committee of the commission. It shall consist of eight (8) regular members and one (1) additional member, a migrant, during the months of April through September. The membership shall consist of the following and be chosen in the following manner: the chairman, appointed by the Governor; one (1) representative of the United Migrants for Opportunities, Incorporated, chosen by and from the official members of the United Migrants for Opportunities, Incorporated; one (1) representative of the state agencies represented, chosen by and from those official agency members; one (1) representative of the independent organizations represented, chosen by and from those members; four (4) representatives of the ex-migrant representation of the county migrant councils, chosen by and from those members; and during the months of April through September, one (1) representative of the migrant members, chosen by and from the migrant

members. The Steering Committee shall be authorized to meet as often as it deems necessary. It shall be the function of the Steering Committee to organize and plan the meetings of the entire commission and to formulate the agenda for such meetings. In the case of an emergency, which is to be determined by the Chairman or a majority of the committee, the Steering Committee may be convened and decide policy with the approval of the entire commission.

Sec. 5. The commission shall render a report and recommendations to the Governor and to the legislature. The first report shall be made no later than January 31, 1972, and annually thereafter.

Sec. 6. State agencies and departments whose work is related to the problems which affect migrant labor shall cooperate with the commission in the implementation of this act.

*P. Robert Rigney, Jr.\**

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\*Member Notre Dame Legislative Bureau.

