

18A:4-42

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2001 **CHAPTER:** 343
NJSA: 18A:4-42 (Commission on Italian-American Heritage)
BILL NO: A3693 (Substituted for S1782)
SPONSOR(S): DiGaetano and Kelly
DATE INTRODUCED: June 21, 2001
COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** State Government; Appropriations
SENATE: ----
AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes
DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** December 17, 2001
SENATE: December 17, 2001
DATE OF APPROVAL: January 5, 2002

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (1st reprint enacted)
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A3693

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 6 of original bill) Yes
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes 12-6-2001(State Gov't)
12-13-2001(Appropr.)
SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S1782

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 6 of original bill) Yes
Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A3693
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No
SENATE: Yes 12-6-2001(State Gov't)
12-13-2001(Appropr.)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

ASSEMBLY, No. 3693

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 21, 2001

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PAUL DIGAETANO
District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)
Assemblyman JOHN V. KELLY
District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Heck, Assemblymen Felice, Arnone and Pennacchio

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education; appropriates \$350,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/30/2001)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Commission on Italian and
2 Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education,
3 supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes,
4 and making an appropriation.
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:
8

9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. For the past several decades Hollywood and the communications
11 media have continuously portrayed Italian and Americans of Italian
12 Heritage as mobsters, buffoons and other nefarious characters to such
13 an extent that it appears to be an orchestrated program of cultural
14 dismemberment and disdain which can and will promote ethnic bigotry
15 and loss of cultural identity.

16 b. The exposure of our children and others to this unrelenting
17 barrage of negative images has led to the erosion and denigration of
18 Italian-American culture, history and heritage. It has, furthermore,
19 encouraged children to emulate negative role models and promoted the
20 social acceptability of disrespect for and bigotry towards Italians and
21 Americans of Italian Heritage and their culture, history and heritage--
22 a culture, history and heritage shared by over 22 percent of New
23 Jersey's population.

24 c. The histories of our nation and our State have been significantly
25 enriched by the heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage.
26 The cultural heritage of Italy includes the classical civilization of
27 Rome, the fine arts of the Renaissance, the scientific and artistic genius
28 of Da Vinci, the literary works of Dante and Petrarch, the operas of
29 Verdi and Puccini and many other contributions that have ennobled
30 civilization.

31 d. More than 5.4 million Italians emigrated to the United States
32 between the years 1820 and 1991; today more than 2 million citizens
33 of this State are of Italian descent. Our nation and our State have
34 benefitted substantially from the influences and contributions of these
35 men, women and children and their distinctive culture, history and
36 heritage.

37 e. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the positive aspects
38 of the culture, music, art, language, history and heritage of Italians and
39 Americans of Italian Heritage.

40 f. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that the culture,
41 history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage are
42 a proper concern for all people, particularly students enrolled in the
43 schools of this State.

44 g. It is appropriate and desirable that programs, workshops,
45 institutes, seminars and other teacher-training activities for the study
46 of the culture, history and heritage of Italian and Americans of Italian

1 Heritage be conducted at the various high schools and institutions of
2 higher education in this State.

3 h. It is fitting and proper to establish a permanent State-level
4 commission to survey, design, encourage and promote the
5 implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage cultural
6 and educational programs in this State, with responsibility for the
7 coordination of events that will provide appropriate awareness and
8 memorialization of the culture, history, heritage and language of
9 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage on a regular basis
10 throughout the State.

11

12 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of
13 Italian Heritage Culture and Education is created and established in the
14 Executive Branch of the State Government. For the purposes of
15 complying with the provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1
16 of the New Jersey Constitution, the commission is allocated within the
17 Department of Education, but notwithstanding this allocation, the
18 commission shall be independent of any supervision or control by the
19 department of any board or officer thereof.

20 The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the
21 Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the
22 Presidents' Council, serving ex officio, and 19 public members.

23 Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public members
24 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; five public members
25 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and nine
26 public members shall be appointed by the Governor, no less than six
27 of whom shall at the time of their appointment have at least a Masters'
28 degree in an area of Italian studies or language. The public members
29 shall be residents of the State who have served prominently as
30 spokespersons for, or as leaders of, organizations in the Italian and
31 Americans of Italian Heritage community which serve members of
32 religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups or who are
33 experienced in the field of Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage
34 education. To the greatest extent practicable, they shall be chosen
35 with due regard to afford the commission with broad regional
36 representation and ethnic diversity.

37 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term of
38 three years, except that of the initial members so appointed: one
39 member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member
40 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and two members
41 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one year; two
42 members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members
43 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and three members
44 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of two years; and two
45 members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members
46 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and four members

1 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of three years. Public
2 members shall be eligible for reappointment. They shall serve until
3 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the
4 successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of
5 the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than by
6 expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original
7 appointment, but for the unexpired term only.

8 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
9 compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
10 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

11 d. The commission annually shall elect a chairman from among its
12 members. It shall meet upon the call of the chairman or of a majority
13 of the commission members. The presence of a majority of the
14 authorized membership of the commission shall be required for the
15 conduct of official business.

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

19
20 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities and
21 duties:

22 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and experience
23 of its members, assistance and advice to the public and nonpublic
24 schools of this State with respect to the implementation of Italian and
25 Americans of Italian Heritage culture and education programs;

26 b. To meet with county and local school officials and other
27 interested public and private organizations, for the purpose of
28 assisting with the planning, coordination or modification of courses of
29 study dealing with issues, matters and subjects concerning or relating
30 to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
31 Heritage;

32 c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Italian and
33 Americans of Italian Heritage cultural awareness and educational
34 programs presently being incorporated into the curricula and taught in
35 the school systems of this State; to inventory those Italian and
36 Americans of Italian Heritage exhibits and resources which may be
37 incorporated into courses of study at various locations throughout the
38 State and, upon request, to assist the State Department of Education
39 and other educational agencies in the development and implementation
40 of Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage cultural awareness and
41 educational programs. In furtherance of this responsibility, the
42 commission shall be authorized to contact and cooperate with existing
43 Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage public or private nonprofit
44 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning issues and
45 topics involving and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
46 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage to members of the United

1 States Senate and House of Representatives and the New Jersey
2 Senate and General Assembly;

3 d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing to
4 share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars and
5 workshops on subjects concerning and relating to the culture, history
6 and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage. These
7 volunteers may be scholars, clergymen, community relations
8 professionals and other persons who, by virtue of their experience,
9 training or interest, have acquired personal or academic knowledge of
10 the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
11 Heritage and who are willing to share that knowledge with students
12 and teachers;

13 e. To coordinate events observing the culture, history and heritage
14 of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage and to seek volunteers
15 who are willing and able to participate in commemorative events that
16 will enhance student awareness of the significance of the culture,
17 history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage;

18 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature
19 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion
20 of Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage studies and special
21 programs memorializing the culture, history and heritage of Italians
22 and Americans of Italian Heritage in the educational system of this
23 State; and

24 g. To develop, in consultation with the State Department of
25 Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and
26 topics concerning and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
27 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage. To the greatest extent
28 practicable, each board of education shall incorporate those guidelines
29 as part of the curriculum for its district's elementary and secondary
30 school students.

31

32 4. a. The commission is authorized to call upon any department,
33 office, division or agency of the State, or of any county, municipality
34 of school district of the State, to supply such data, program reports
35 and other information, personnel and assistance as it deems necessary
36 to discharge its responsibilities under this act.

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

42

43 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$350,000 to the
44 Department of Education to enable the Commission on Italian and
45 Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education to effectuate the
46 purposes of this act.

1 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Italian and
7 Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education as a permanent
8 statutory body established in, but not of, the Department of Education.

9 The duties of the commission include giving assistance to and
10 advising public and nonpublic schools on the positive contributions
11 and achievement of Italians and of Americans of Italian Heritage in our
12 society and encouraging a recognition of those values, both cultural
13 and historical, which derive from the Italian heritage.

14 One of the commission's primary responsibilities is the development
15 and implementation of educational and awareness programs on Italians
16 and Americans of Italian Heritage for use in both public and nonpublic
17 schools. To fulfill this responsibility, the commission is to meet with
18 local school officials and other interested parties to assist with the
19 planning, coordination or modification of Italian and Americans of
20 Italian Heritage study programs; to prepare a catalog of Italian and
21 Americans of Italian Heritage education courses currently available in
22 school curricula; to compile a roster of experienced and
23 knowledgeable volunteers willing to participate in Italian and
24 Americans of Italian Heritage education and awareness programs; to
25 coordinate events memorializing the culture, history and heritage of
26 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage and to report to the
27 Governor and the Legislature its findings and recommendations to
28 facilitate the inclusion of studies, courses and special programs that
29 focus on the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans
30 of Italian Heritage in school curricula and educational systems.

31 The bill specifies that the commission is to consist of 21 members.
32 Two of the members are to serve ex-officio: the Commissioner of
33 Education and the chair of the executive board of the Presidents'
34 Council. The 19 public members are to be appointed as follows: five
35 are to be appointed by the Senate President, five by the Speaker of the
36 General Assembly and nine by the Governor. The bill mandates that
37 at least six of the Governor's appointees have, as a minimum
38 educational requirement, a Master's degree in Italian studies or
39 language. The public members are to serve three year terms. To
40 assure continuity, the bill provides staggered terms for the initial
41 appointees.

42 Finally, the bill appropriates \$350,000 to enable the commission to
43 fulfill its responsibilities and duties.

ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3693

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 6, 2001

The Assembly State Government Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly, No. 3693.

As amended, this bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs as a permanent statutory body established in, but not of, the Department of Education.

The duties of the commission include giving assistance, through programs and other resources, to public and nonpublic schools on the positive contributions and achievement of Italians and of Americans of Italian heritage in our society and encouraging a recognition of those values, both cultural and historical, which derive from the Italian heritage.

The bill specifies that the commission is to consist of 21 members. Two of the members are to serve ex-officio: the Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council. The 19 public members are to be appointed as follows: five by the Senate President, five by the Speaker of the General Assembly and nine by the Governor. The bill requires that at least six of the public members have, as a minimum educational requirement, a Master's degree in Italian studies or language and that at least one-half of them be of Italian descent.

The bill also provides that the commission will establish and oversee an Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies, hosted by a college or university in New Jersey, and will appoint an advisory council to the commission and the institute.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$350,000 to enable the commission to fulfill its responsibilities and duties.

The committee amended the bill to correct various designations, to provide that at least one of the public members appointed by the Senate President and Assembly Speaker have a Masters' degree in an area of Italian studies or language, to require that at least one-half of the public members be of Italian descent, and to provide for the creation of the Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3693

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 13, 2001

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports without recommendation Assembly Bill No. 3693.

Assembly Bill No. 3693 establishes the New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education as a permanent statutory body established in, but not of, the Department of Education.

The duties of the commission include giving assistance to and advising public and nonpublic schools on the positive contributions and achievement of Italians and of Americans of Italian Heritage in our society and encouraging a recognition of those values, both cultural and historical, which derive from the Italian heritage.

The bill specifies that the commission is to consist of 21 members. Two of the members are to serve ex-officio: the Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council. The 19 public members are to be appointed as follows: five are to be appointed by the Senate President, five by the Speaker of the General Assembly and nine by the Governor. The bill mandates that at least six of the Governor's appointees have, as a minimum educational requirement, a Master's degree in Italian studies or language. The public members are to serve three year terms. To assure continuity, the bill provides staggered terms for the initial appointees.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill makes a General Fund appropriation of \$350,000 to the Department of Education for the Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3693

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 21, 2001

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PAUL DIGAETANO
District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)
Assemblyman JOHN V. KELLY
District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

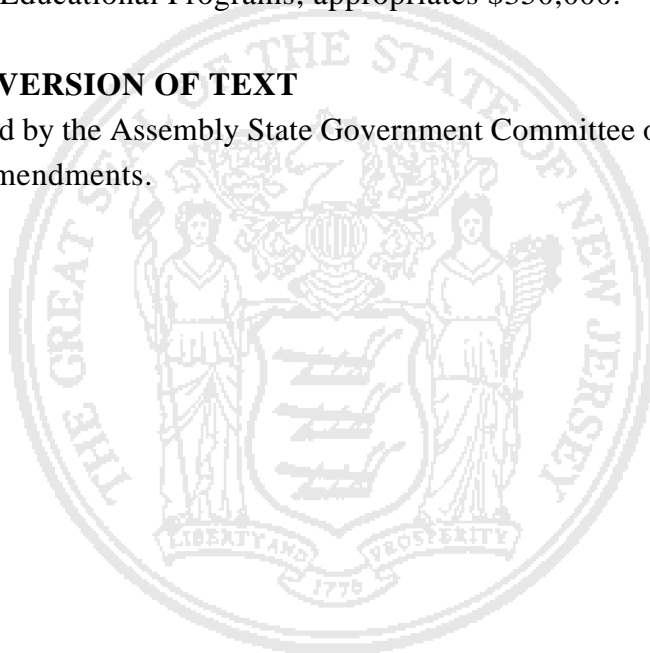
Assemblywoman Heck, Assemblymen Felice, Arnone, Pennacchio,
Corodemus, Senators Bucco, Kosco, Cardinale, Palaia, Sinagra, Inverso,
Caffero, Girgenti and Vitale

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs; appropriates \$350,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly State Government Committee on December 6, 2001, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2001)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Commission on Italian and
2 Americans of Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural
3 and Educational Programs¹, supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A
4 of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

8
9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. For the past several decades Hollywood and the communications
11 media have continuously portrayed ¹[Italian] Italians¹ and Americans
12 of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ as mobsters, buffoons and other
13 nefarious characters to such an extent that it appears to be an
14 orchestrated program of cultural dismemberment and disdain which
15 can and will promote ethnic bigotry and loss of cultural identity.

16 b. The exposure of our children and others to this unrelenting
17 barrage of negative images has led to the erosion and denigration of
18 Italian-American culture, history and heritage. It has, furthermore,
19 encouraged children to emulate negative role models and promoted the
20 social acceptability of disrespect for and bigotry towards Italians and
21 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and their culture, history
22 and heritage--a culture, history and heritage shared by over 22 percent
23 of New Jersey's population.

24 c. The histories of our nation and our State have been significantly
25 enriched by the heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
26 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹. The cultural heritage of Italy includes the
27 classical civilization of Rome, the fine arts of the Renaissance, the
28 scientific and artistic genius of Da Vinci, the literary works of Dante
29 and Petrarch, the operas of Verdi and Puccini and many other
30 contributions that have ennobled civilization.

31 d. More than 5.4 million Italians emigrated to the United States
32 between the years 1820 and 1991; today more than 2 million citizens
33 of this State are of Italian descent. Our nation and our State have
34 benefitted substantially from the influences and contributions of these
35 men, women and children and their distinctive culture, history and
36 heritage.

37 e. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the positive aspects
38 of the culture, music, art, language, history and heritage of Italians and
39 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹.

40 f. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that the culture,
41 history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ASG committee amendments adopted December 6, 2001.

1 heritage¹ are a proper concern for all people, particularly students
2 enrolled in the schools of this State.

3 g. It is appropriate and desirable that programs, workshops,
4 institutes, seminars and other teacher-training activities for the study
5 of the culture, history and heritage of ¹[Italian] Italians¹ and
6 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ be conducted at the various
7 high schools and institutions of higher education in this State.

8 h. It is fitting and proper to establish a permanent State-level
9 commission to survey, design, encourage and promote the
10 implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
11 heritage¹ cultural and educational programs in this State, with
12 responsibility for the coordination of events that will provide
13 appropriate awareness and memorialization of the culture, history,
14 heritage and language of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
15 heritage¹ on a regular basis throughout the State.

16

17 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of
18 Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural and Educational
19 Programs¹ is created and established in the Executive Branch of the
20 State Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions
21 of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,
22 the commission is allocated within the Department of Education, but
23 notwithstanding this allocation, the commission shall be independent
24 of any supervision or control by the department ¹[of] or¹ any board
25 or officer thereof.

26 The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the
27 Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the
28 Presidents' Council, serving ex officio, and 19 public members.

29 Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public members
30 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate ¹, at least one of
31 whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Italian studies or
32 language¹; five public members shall be appointed by the Speaker of
33 the General Assembly ¹, at least one of whom shall have a Masters'
34 degree in an area of Italian studies or language¹; and nine public
35 members shall be appointed by the Governor, no less than ¹[six] four¹
36 of whom shall at the time of their appointment have at least a Masters'
37 degree in an area of Italian studies or language. The public members
38 shall be residents of the State who have served prominently as
39 spokespersons for, or as leaders of, organizations in the Italian and
40 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ community which serve
41 members of religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups or who
42 are experienced in the field of Italian and Americans of Italian
43 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ education. To the greatest extent practicable,
44 they shall be chosen with due regard to afford the commission with
45 broad regional representation and ethnic diversity. ¹At least one-half

1 of the public members shall be of Italian descent.¹

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

19 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
20 compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
21 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

22 d. The commission annually shall elect a chairman from among its
23 members. It shall meet upon the call of the chairman or of a majority
24 of the commission members. The presence of a majority of the
25 authorized membership of the commission shall be required for the
26 conduct of official business.

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

30

31 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities and
32 duties:

33 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and experience
34 of its members, assistance and advice to the public and nonpublic
35 schools of this State with respect to the implementation of Italian and
36 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage culture and education] heritage
37 cultural and educational¹ programs;

38 b. To meet with county and local school officials and other
39 interested public and private organizations, for the purpose of
40 assisting with the planning, coordination or modification of courses of
41 study dealing with issues, matters and subjects concerning or relating
42 to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
43 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹;

44 c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Italian and
45 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ cultural awareness and
46 educational programs presently being incorporated into the curricula

1 and taught in the school systems of this State; to inventory those
2 Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ exhibits and
3 resources which may be incorporated into courses of study at various
4 locations throughout the State and, upon request, to assist the State
5 Department of Education and other educational agencies in the
6 development and implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian
7 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ cultural awareness and educational programs.
8 In furtherance of this responsibility, the commission shall be
9 authorized to contact and cooperate with existing Italian and
10 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ public or private nonprofit
11 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning issues and
12 topics involving and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
13 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ to members
14 of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and the New
15 Jersey Senate and General Assembly;

16 d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing to
17 share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars and
18 workshops on subjects concerning and relating to the culture, history
19 and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
20 heritage¹. These volunteers may be scholars, clergymen, community
21 relations professionals and other persons who, by virtue of their
22 experience, training or interest, have acquired personal or academic
23 knowledge of the culture, history and heritage of Italians and
24 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and who are willing to
25 share that knowledge with students and teachers;

26 e. To coordinate events observing the culture, history and heritage
27 of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and to seek
28 volunteers who are willing and able to participate in commemorative
29 events that will enhance student awareness of the significance of the
30 culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
31 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹;

32 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature
33 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion
34 of Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ studies and
35 special programs memorializing the culture, history and heritage of
36 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ in¹ the
37 educational system of this State; and

38 g. To develop, in consultation with the State Department of
39 Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and
40 topics concerning and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
41 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹. To the
42 greatest extent practicable, each board of education shall incorporate
43 those guidelines as part of the curriculum for its district's elementary
44 and secondary school students.

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

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

11
12 ¹5. a. The commission shall create, establish and oversee the
13 Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies as an entity
14 whose purpose is to assist the commission in implementation of its
15 responsibilities as identified in section 3 of this act, P.L. , c. (C.)
16 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill). The commission
17 shall function as the board of governors for the institute. The
18 commission shall appoint an executive director of the institute who
19 shall serve at its pleasure.

20 b. The commission shall survey the New Jersey four-year
21 universities and colleges that have an advanced degree program in the
22 fields of Italian and/or Italian American studies and select one to serve
23 as host to the institute. The institute shall not be administered by the
24 college or university selected as the host site. The institute will
25 collaborate with and otherwise engage, share and exchange resources
26 with the higher education community of New Jersey and work to
27 establish mutually beneficial public service programs and activities
28 consistent with the mission of the commission.

29 c. The institute shall have the authority to raise private funds and
30 obtain public funds to be used toward scholarships, grants and studies
31 in the field of Italian and/or Italian American studies.

32 d. The commission shall appoint an Advisory Council to the
33 commission and institute. The advisory council shall consist of
34 individuals who have served prominently as spokespersons for, or as
35 leaders of, organizations in the Italian and Americans of Italian
36 heritage community which serve members of religious, ethnic, national
37 heritage or social groups or who are experienced in the field of Italian
38 and Americans of Italian heritage education.¹

39
40 ¹[5.] 6.¹ There is appropriated from the General Fund \$350,000
41 to the Department of Education to enable the Commission on Italian
42 and Americans of Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural
43 and Educational Programs¹ to effectuate the purposes of this act.

44
45 ¹[6.] 7.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE, No. 1782

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 11, 2001

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris)

Senator LOUIS F. KOSCO

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

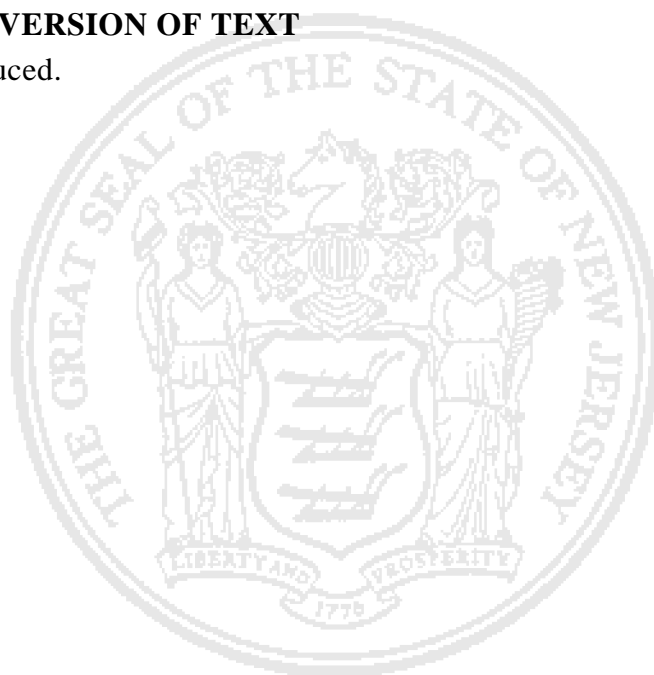
Senators Cardinale, Palaia, Sinagra, Inverso, Cafiero, Girgenti and Vitale

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education; appropriates \$350,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Commission on Italian and
2 Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education,
3 supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes,
4 and making an appropriation.

5

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

8

9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. For the past several decades Hollywood and the communications
11 media have continuously portrayed Italian and Americans of Italian
12 Heritage as mobsters, buffoons and other nefarious characters to such
13 an extent that it appears to be an orchestrated program of cultural
14 dismemberment and disdain which can and will promote ethnic bigotry
15 and loss of cultural identity.

16 b. The exposure of our children and others to this unrelenting
17 barrage of negative images has led to the erosion and denigration of
18 Italian-American culture, history and heritage. It has, furthermore,
19 encouraged children to emulate negative role models and promoted the
20 social acceptability of disrespect for and bigotry towards Italians and
21 Americans of Italian Heritage and their culture, history and heritage--
22 a culture, history and heritage shared by over 22 percent of New
23 Jersey's population.

24 c. The histories of our nation and our State have been significantly
25 enriched by the heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage.
26 The cultural heritage of Italy includes the classical civilization of
27 Rome, the fine arts of the Renaissance, the scientific and artistic genius
28 of Da Vinci, the literary works of Dante and Petrarch, the operas of
29 Verdi and Puccini and many other contributions that have ennobled
30 civilization.

31 d. More than 5.4 million Italians emigrated to the United States
32 between the years 1820 and 1991; today more than 2 million citizens
33 of this State are of Italian descent. Our nation and our State have
34 benefitted substantially from the influences and contributions of these
35 men, women and children and their distinctive culture, history and
36 heritage.

37 e. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the positive aspects
38 of the culture, music, art, language, history and heritage of Italians and
39 Americans of Italian Heritage.

40 f. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that the culture,
41 history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage are
42 a proper concern for all people, particularly students enrolled in the
43 schools of this State.

44 g. It is appropriate and desirable that programs, workshops,
45 institutes, seminars and other teacher-training activities for the study
46 of the culture, history and heritage of Italian and Americans of Italian

1 Heritage be conducted at the various high schools and institutions of
2 higher education in this State.

3 h. It is fitting and proper to establish a permanent State-level
4 commission to survey, design, encourage and promote the
5 implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage cultural
6 and educational programs in this State, with responsibility for the
7 coordination of events that will provide appropriate awareness and
8 memorialization of the culture, history, heritage and language of
9 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage on a regular basis
10 throughout the State.

11

12 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of
13 Italian Heritage Culture and Education is created and established in the
14 Executive Branch of the State Government. For the purposes of
15 complying with the provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1
16 of the New Jersey Constitution, the commission is allocated within the
17 Department of Education, but notwithstanding this allocation, the
18 commission shall be independent of any supervision or control by the
19 department of any board or officer thereof.

20 The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the
21 Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the
22 Presidents' Council, serving ex officio, and 19 public members.

23 Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public members
24 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; five public members
25 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and nine
26 public members shall be appointed by the Governor, no less than six
27 of whom shall at the time of their appointment have at least a Masters'
28 degree in an area of Italian studies or language. The public members
29 shall be residents of the State who have served prominently as
30 spokespersons for, or as leaders of, organizations in the Italian and
31 Americans of Italian Heritage community which serve members of
32 religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups or who are
33 experienced in the field of Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage
34 education. To the greatest extent practicable, they shall be chosen
35 with due regard to afford the commission with broad regional
36 representation and ethnic diversity.

37 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term of
38 three years, except that of the initial members so appointed: one
39 member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member
40 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and two members
41 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one year; two
42 members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members
43 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and three members
44 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of two years; and two
45 members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members
46 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and four members

1 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of three years. Public
2 members shall be eligible for reappointment. They shall serve until
3 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the
4 successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of
5 the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than by
6 expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original
7 appointment, but for the unexpired term only.

8 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
9 compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
10 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

11 d. The commission annually shall elect a chairman from among its
12 members. It shall meet upon the call of the chairman or of a majority
13 of the commission members. The presence of a majority of the
14 authorized membership of the commission shall be required for the
15 conduct of official business.

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

19
20 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities and
21 duties:

22 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and experience
23 of its members, assistance and advice to the public and nonpublic
24 schools of this State with respect to the implementation of Italian and
25 Americans of Italian Heritage culture and education programs;

26 b. To meet with county and local school officials and other
27 interested public and private organizations, for the purpose of
28 assisting with the planning, coordination or modification of courses of
29 study dealing with issues, matters and subjects concerning or relating
30 to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
31 Heritage;

32 c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Italian and
33 Americans of Italian Heritage cultural awareness and educational
34 programs presently being incorporated into the curricula and taught in
35 the school systems of this State; to inventory those Italian and
36 Americans of Italian Heritage exhibits and resources which may be
37 incorporated into courses of study at various locations throughout the
38 State and, upon request, to assist the State Department of Education
39 and other educational agencies in the development and implementation
40 of Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage cultural awareness and
41 educational programs. In furtherance of this responsibility, the
42 commission shall be authorized to contact and cooperate with existing
43 Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage public or private nonprofit
44 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning issues and
45 topics involving and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
46 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage to members of the United

1 States Senate and House of Representatives and the New Jersey
2 Senate and General Assembly;

3 d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing to
4 share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars and
5 workshops on subjects concerning and relating to the culture, history
6 and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage. These
7 volunteers may be scholars, clergymen, community relations
8 professionals and other persons who, by virtue of their experience,
9 training or interest, have acquired personal or academic knowledge of
10 the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
11 Heritage and who are willing to share that knowledge with students
12 and teachers;

13 e. To coordinate events observing the culture, history and heritage
14 of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage and to seek volunteers
15 who are willing and able to participate in commemorative events that
16 will enhance student awareness of the significance of the culture,
17 history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage;

18 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature
19 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion
20 of Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage studies and special
21 programs memorializing the culture, history and heritage of Italians
22 and Americans of Italian Heritage in the educational system of this
23 State; and

24 g. To develop, in consultation with the State Department of
25 Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and
26 topics concerning and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
27 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage. To the greatest extent
28 practicable, each board of education shall incorporate those guidelines
29 as part of the curriculum for its district's elementary and secondary
30 school students.

31

32 4. a. The commission is authorized to call upon any department,
33 office, division or agency of the State, or of any county, municipality
34 of school district of the State, to supply such data, program reports
35 and other information, personnel and assistance as it deems necessary
36 to discharge its responsibilities under this act.

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

42

43 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$350,000 to the
44 Department of Education to enable the Commission on Italian and
45 Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education to effectuate the
46 purposes of this act.

1 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Italian and
7 Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Education as a permanent
8 statutory body established in, but not of, the Department of Education.

9 The duties of the commission include giving assistance to and
10 advising public and nonpublic schools on the positive contributions
11 and achievement of Italians and of Americans of Italian Heritage in our
12 society and encouraging a recognition of those values, both cultural
13 and historical, which derive from the Italian heritage.

14 One of the commission's primary responsibilities is the development
15 and implementation of educational and awareness programs on Italians
16 and Americans of Italian Heritage for use in both public and nonpublic
17 schools. To fulfill this responsibility, the commission is to meet with
18 local school officials and other interested parties to assist with the
19 planning, coordination or modification of Italian and Americans of
20 Italian Heritage study programs; to prepare a catalog of Italian and
21 Americans of Italian Heritage education courses currently available in
22 school curricula; to compile a roster of experienced and
23 knowledgeable volunteers willing to participate in Italian and
24 Americans of Italian Heritage education and awareness programs; to
25 coordinate events memorializing the culture, history and heritage of
26 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage and to report to the
27 Governor and the Legislature its findings and recommendations to
28 facilitate the inclusion of studies, courses and special programs that
29 focus on the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans
30 of Italian Heritage in school curricula and educational systems.

31 The bill specifies that the commission is to consist of 21 members.
32 Two of the members are to serve ex-officio: the Commissioner of
33 Education and the chair of the executive board of the Presidents'
34 Council. The 19 public members are to be appointed as follows: five
35 are to be appointed by the Senate President, five by the Speaker of the
36 General Assembly and nine by the Governor. The bill mandates that
37 at least six of the Governor's appointees have, as a minimum
38 educational requirement, a Master's degree in Italian studies or
39 language. The public members are to serve three year terms. To
40 assure continuity, the bill provides staggered terms for the initial
41 appointees.

42 Finally, the bill appropriates \$350,000 to enable the commission to
43 fulfill its responsibilities and duties.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1782

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 2001

The Senate State Government Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1782.

This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs as a permanent body in, but not of, the Department of Education.

The duties of the commission include giving assistance to and advising public and nonpublic schools on the positive contributions and achievements of Italians and of Americans of Italian heritage in our society and encouraging a recognition of those values, both cultural and historical, which derive from the Italian heritage.

One of the commission's primary responsibilities is the development and implementation of educational and awareness programs on Italians and Americans of Italian heritage for use in both public and nonpublic schools. To fulfill this responsibility, the commission is to meet with local school officials and other interested parties to assist with the planning, coordination or modification of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage study programs; to prepare a catalog of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage education courses currently available in school curricula; to compile a roster of experienced and knowledgeable volunteers willing to participate in Italian and Americans of Italian heritage education and awareness programs; to coordinate events memorializing the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage; and to report to the Governor and the Legislature its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion of studies, courses and special programs that focus on the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage in school curricula and educational systems.

The bill specifies that the commission is to consist of 21 members. Two of the members are to serve ex-officio: the Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council. The 19 public members are to be appointed as follows: five are to be appointed by the Senate President, five by the Speaker of the General Assembly and nine by the Governor. The public members are to serve three year terms. To assure continuity, the bill provides staggered terms for the initial appointees.

The bill appropriates \$350,000 to the commission.

The committee amended the bill to: correct various designations; provide that at least one of the public members appointed by the Senate President and Assembly Speaker have a Masters' degree in an area of Italian studies or language; and to require that at least one-half of the public members be of Italian descent.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1782

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 11, 2001

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris)

Senator LOUIS F. KOSCO

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

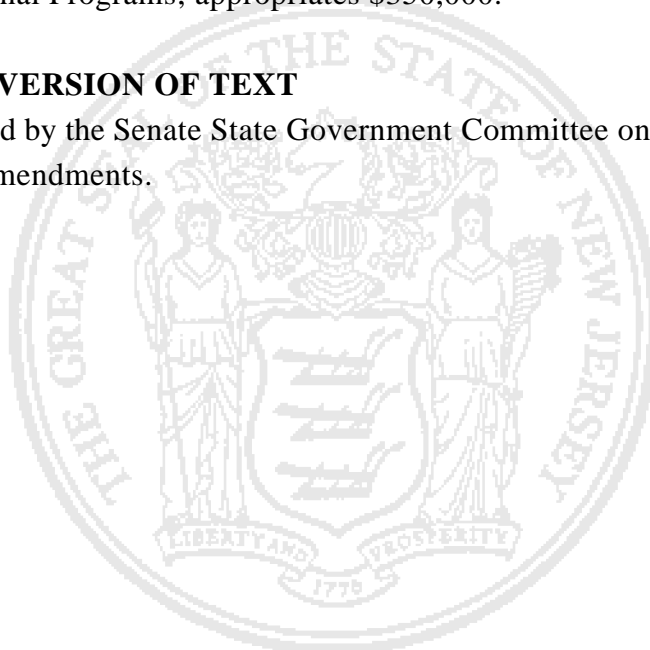
Senators Cardinale, Palaia, Sinagra, Inverso, Cafiero, Girgenti and Vitale

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and Educational Programs; appropriates \$350,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate State Government Committee on November 29, 2001, with amendments.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Commission on Italian and
2 Americans of Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural
3 and Educational Programs¹, supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A
4 of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

8
9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. For the past several decades Hollywood and the communications
11 media have continuously portrayed ¹[Italian] Italians¹ and Americans
12 of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ as mobsters, buffoons and other
13 nefarious characters to such an extent that it appears to be an
14 orchestrated program of cultural dismemberment and disdain which
15 can and will promote ethnic bigotry and loss of cultural identity.

16 b. The exposure of our children and others to this unrelenting
17 barrage of negative images has led to the erosion and denigration of
18 Italian-American culture, history and heritage. It has, furthermore,
19 encouraged children to emulate negative role models and promoted the
20 social acceptability of disrespect for and bigotry towards Italians and
21 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and their culture, history
22 and heritage--a culture, history and heritage shared by over 22 percent
23 of New Jersey's population.

24 c. The histories of our nation and our State have been significantly
25 enriched by the heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
26 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹. The cultural heritage of Italy includes the
27 classical civilization of Rome, the fine arts of the Renaissance, the
28 scientific and artistic genius of Da Vinci, the literary works of Dante
29 and Petrarch, the operas of Verdi and Puccini and many other
30 contributions that have ennobled civilization.

31 d. More than 5.4 million Italians emigrated to the United States
32 between the years 1820 and 1991; today more than 2 million citizens
33 of this State are of Italian descent. Our nation and our State have
34 benefitted substantially from the influences and contributions of these
35 men, women and children and their distinctive culture, history and
36 heritage.

37 e. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the positive aspects
38 of the culture, music, art, language, history and heritage of Italians and
39 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹.

40 f. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that the culture,
41 history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SSG committee amendments adopted November 29, 2001.

1 heritage¹ are a proper concern for all people, particularly students
2 enrolled in the schools of this State.

3 g. It is appropriate and desirable that programs, workshops,
4 institutes, seminars and other teacher-training activities for the study
5 of the culture, history and heritage of ¹[Italian] Italians¹ and
6 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ be conducted at the various
7 high schools and institutions of higher education in this State.

8 h. It is fitting and proper to establish a permanent State-level
9 commission to survey, design, encourage and promote the
10 implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
11 heritage¹ cultural and educational programs in this State, with
12 responsibility for the coordination of events that will provide
13 appropriate awareness and memorialization of the culture, history,
14 heritage and language of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
15 heritage¹ on a regular basis throughout the State.

16

17 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of
18 Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural and Educational
19 Programs¹ is created and established in the Executive Branch of the
20 State Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions
21 of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,
22 the commission is allocated within the Department of Education, but
23 notwithstanding this allocation, the commission shall be independent
24 of any supervision or control by the department ¹[of] or¹ any board
25 or officer thereof.

26 The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the
27 Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the
28 Presidents' Council, serving ex officio, and 19 public members.

29 Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public members
30 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate¹, at least one of
31 whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Italian studies or
32 language¹; five public members shall be appointed by the Speaker of
33 the General Assembly¹, at least one of whom shall have a Masters'
34 degree in an area of Italian studies or language¹; and nine public
35 members shall be appointed by the Governor, no less than ¹[six] four¹
36 of whom shall at the time of their appointment have at least a Masters'
37 degree in an area of Italian studies or language. The public members
38 shall be residents of the State who have served prominently as
39 spokespersons for, or as leaders of, organizations in the Italian and
40 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ community which serve
41 members of religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups or who
42 are experienced in the field of Italian and Americans of Italian
43 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ education. To the greatest extent practicable,
44 they shall be chosen with due regard to afford the commission with
45 broad regional representation and ethnic diversity. ¹At least one-half

1 of the public members shall be of Italian descent.¹

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

19 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
20 compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
21 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

22 d. The commission annually shall elect a chairman from among its
23 members. It shall meet upon the call of the chairman or of a majority
24 of the commission members. The presence of a majority of the
25 authorized membership of the commission shall be required for the
26 conduct of official business.

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

30

31 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities and
32 duties:

33 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and experience
34 of its members, assistance and advice to the public and nonpublic
35 schools of this State with respect to the implementation of Italian and
36 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage culture and education] heritage
37 cultural and educational¹ programs;

38 b. To meet with county and local school officials and other
39 interested public and private organizations, for the purpose of
40 assisting with the planning, coordination or modification of courses of
41 study dealing with issues, matters and subjects concerning or relating
42 to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
43 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹;

44 c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Italian and
45 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ cultural awareness and
46 educational programs presently being incorporated into the curricula

1 and taught in the school systems of this State; to inventory those
2 Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ exhibits and
3 resources which may be incorporated into courses of study at various
4 locations throughout the State and, upon request, to assist the State
5 Department of Education and other educational agencies in the
6 development and implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian
7 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ cultural awareness and educational programs.
8 In furtherance of this responsibility, the commission shall be
9 authorized to contact and cooperate with existing Italian and
10 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ public or private nonprofit
11 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning issues and
12 topics involving and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
13 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ to members of
14 the United States Senate and House of Representatives and the New
15 Jersey Senate and General Assembly;

16 d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing to
17 share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars and
18 workshops on subjects concerning and relating to the culture, history
19 and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
20 heritage¹. These volunteers may be scholars, clergymen, community
21 relations professionals and other persons who, by virtue of their
22 experience, training or interest, have acquired personal or academic
23 knowledge of the culture, history and heritage of Italians and
24 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and who are willing to
25 share that knowledge with students and teachers;

26 e. To coordinate events observing the culture, history and heritage
27 of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and to seek
28 volunteers who are willing and able to participate in commemorative
29 events that will enhance student awareness of the significance of the
30 culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
31 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹;

32 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature
33 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion
34 of Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ studies and
35 special programs memorializing the culture, history and heritage of
36 Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage in the educational system of
37 this State; and

38 g. To develop, in consultation with the State Department of
39 Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and
40 topics concerning and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
41 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹. To the
42 greatest extent practicable, each board of education shall incorporate
43 those guidelines as part of the curriculum for its district's elementary
44 and secondary school students.

S1782 [1R] BUCCO, KOSCO

6

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

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

11

12 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$350,000 to the
13 Department of Education to enable the Commission on Italian and
14 Americans of Italian Heritage ¹**[Culture and Education]** Cultural and
15 Educational Programs¹ to effectuate the purposes of this act.

16

17 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1782

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 13, 2001

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1782 (1R).

This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs as a permanent statutory body established in, but not of, the Department of Education.

The duties of the commission include giving assistance, through programs and other resources, to public and nonpublic schools on the positive contributions and achievement of Italians and of Americans of Italian heritage in our society and encouraging a recognition of those values, both cultural and historical, which derive from the Italian heritage.

The bill specifies that the commission is to consist of 21 members. Two of the members are to serve ex-officio: the Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council. The 19 public members are to be appointed as follows: five by the Senate President, five by the Speaker of the General Assembly and nine by the Governor. The bill requires that at least six of the public members have, as a minimum educational requirement, a Master's degree in Italian studies or language and that at least one-half of them be of Italian descent.

The bill also provides that the commission will establish and oversee an Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies, hosted by a college or university in New Jersey, and will appoint an advisory council to the commission and the institute.

As amended, the provisions of this bill are identical to those of Assembly Bill No. 3693 (1R).

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

Committee amendments to the bill provide for the creation of the Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies and make two small technical corrections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill appropriates \$350,000 to enable the commission to fulfill its responsibilities and duties.

[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 1782

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 11, 2001

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris)

Senator LOUIS F. KOSCO

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

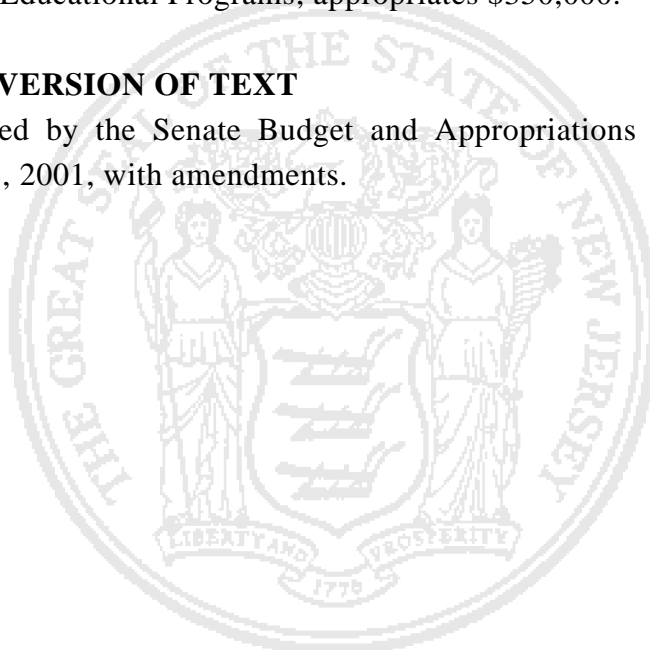
Senators Cardinale, Palaia, Sinagra, Inverso, Cafiero, Girgenti and Vitale

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs; appropriates \$350,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on December 13, 2001, with amendments.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Commission on Italian and
2 Americans of Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural
3 and Educational Programs¹, supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A
4 of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

8
9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. For the past several decades Hollywood and the communications
11 media have continuously portrayed ¹[Italian] Italians¹ and Americans
12 of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ as mobsters, buffoons and other
13 nefarious characters to such an extent that it appears to be an
14 orchestrated program of cultural dismemberment and disdain which
15 can and will promote ethnic bigotry and loss of cultural identity.

16 b. The exposure of our children and others to this unrelenting
17 barrage of negative images has led to the erosion and denigration of
18 Italian-American culture, history and heritage. It has, furthermore,
19 encouraged children to emulate negative role models and promoted the
20 social acceptability of disrespect for and bigotry towards Italians and
21 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and their culture, history
22 and heritage--a culture, history and heritage shared by over 22 percent
23 of New Jersey's population.

24 c. The histories of our nation and our State have been significantly
25 enriched by the heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
26 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹. The cultural heritage of Italy includes the
27 classical civilization of Rome, the fine arts of the Renaissance, the
28 scientific and artistic genius of Da Vinci, the literary works of Dante
29 and Petrarch, the operas of Verdi and Puccini and many other
30 contributions that have ennobled civilization.

31 d. More than 5.4 million Italians emigrated to the United States
32 between the years 1820 and 1991; today more than 2 million citizens
33 of this State are of Italian descent. Our nation and our State have
34 benefitted substantially from the influences and contributions of these
35 men, women and children and their distinctive culture, history and
36 heritage.

37 e. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the positive aspects
38 of the culture, music, art, language, history and heritage of Italians and
39 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹.

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SSG committee amendments adopted November 29, 2001.

² Senate SBA committee amendments adopted December 13, 2001.

1 f. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that the culture,
2 history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
3 heritage¹ are a proper concern for all people, particularly students
4 enrolled in the schools of this State.

5 g. It is appropriate and desirable that programs, workshops,
6 institutes, seminars and other teacher-training activities for the study
7 of the culture, history and heritage of ¹[Italian] Italians¹ and
8 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ be conducted at the various
9 high schools and institutions of higher education in this State.

10 h. It is fitting and proper to establish a permanent State-level
11 commission to survey, design, encourage and promote the
12 implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
13 heritage¹ cultural and educational programs in this State, with
14 responsibility for the coordination of events that will provide
15 appropriate awareness and memorialization of the culture, history,
16 heritage and language of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
17 heritage¹ on a regular basis throughout the State.

18
19 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of
20 Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural and Educational
21 Programs¹ is created and established in the Executive Branch of the
22 State Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions
23 of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,
24 the commission is allocated within the Department of Education, but
25 notwithstanding this allocation, the commission shall be independent
26 of any supervision or control by the department ¹[of] or¹ any board
27 or officer thereof.

28 The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the
29 Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the
30 Presidents' Council, serving ex officio, and 19 public members.

31 Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public members
32 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate¹, at least one of
33 whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Italian studies or
34 language¹; five public members shall be appointed by the Speaker of
35 the General Assembly¹, at least one of whom shall have a Masters'
36 degree in an area of Italian studies or language¹; and nine public
37 members shall be appointed by the Governor, no less than ¹[six] four¹
38 of whom shall at the time of their appointment have at least a Masters'
39 degree in an area of Italian studies or language. The public members
40 shall be residents of the State who have served prominently as
41 spokespersons for, or as leaders of, organizations in the Italian and
42 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ community which serve
43 members of religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups or who
44 are experienced in the field of Italian and Americans of Italian
45 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ education. To the greatest extent practicable,

1 they shall be chosen with due regard to afford the commission with
2 broad regional representation and ethnic diversity. ¹At least one-half
3 of the public members shall be of Italian descent.¹

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

21 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
22 compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
23 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

24 d. The commission annually shall elect a chairman from among its
25 members. It shall meet upon the call of the chairman or of a majority
26 of the commission members. The presence of a majority of the
27 authorized membership of the commission shall be required for the
28 conduct of official business.

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

32
33 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities and
34 duties:

35 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and experience
36 of its members, assistance and advice to the public and nonpublic
37 schools of this State with respect to the implementation of Italian and
38 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage culture and education] heritage
39 cultural and educational¹ programs;

40 b. To meet with county and local school officials and other
41 interested public and private organizations, for the purpose of
42 assisting with the planning, coordination or modification of courses of
43 study dealing with issues, matters and subjects concerning or relating
44 to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
45 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹;

46 c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Italian and
47 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ cultural awareness and

1 educational programs presently being incorporated into the curricula
2 and taught in the school systems of this State; to inventory those
3 Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ exhibits and
4 resources which may be incorporated into courses of study at various
5 locations throughout the State and, upon request, to assist the State
6 Department of Education and other educational agencies in the
7 development and implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian
8 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ cultural awareness and educational programs.
9 In furtherance of this responsibility, the commission shall be
10 authorized to contact and cooperate with existing Italian and
11 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ public or private nonprofit
12 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning issues and
13 topics involving and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
14 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ to members of
15 the United States Senate and House of Representatives and the New
16 Jersey Senate and General Assembly;

17 d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing to
18 share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars and
19 workshops on subjects concerning and relating to the culture, history
20 and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
21 heritage¹. These volunteers may be scholars, clergymen, community
22 relations professionals and other persons who, by virtue of their
23 experience, training or interest, have acquired personal or academic
24 knowledge of the culture, history and heritage of Italians and
25 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and who are willing to
26 share that knowledge with students and teachers;

27 e. To coordinate events observing the culture, history and heritage
28 of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and to seek
29 volunteers who are willing and able to participate in commemorative
30 events that will enhance student awareness of the significance of the
31 culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
32 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹;

33 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature
34 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion
35 of Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ studies and
36 special programs memorializing the culture, history and heritage of
37 Italians and Americans of Italian ²[Heritage] heritage² in the
38 educational system of this State; and

39 g. To develop, in consultation with the State Department of
40 Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and
41 topics concerning and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
42 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹. To the
43 greatest extent practicable, each board of education shall incorporate
44 those guidelines as part of the curriculum for its district's elementary
45 and secondary school students.

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

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

11
12 ²5. a. The commission shall create, establish and oversee the
13 Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies as an entity
14 whose purpose is to assist the commission in implementation of its
15 responsibilities as identified in section 3 of this act, P.L. , c. (C.)
16 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill). The commission
17 shall function as the board of governors for the institute. The
18 commission shall appoint an executive director of the institute who
19 shall serve at its pleasure.

20 b. The commission shall survey the New Jersey four-year
21 universities and colleges that have an advanced degree program in the
22 fields of Italian and/or Italian American studies and select one to serve
23 as host to the institute. The institute shall not be administered by the
24 college or university selected as the host site. The institute will
25 collaborate with and otherwise engage, share and exchange resources
26 with the higher education community of New Jersey and work to
27 establish mutually beneficial public service programs and activities
28 consistent with the mission of the commission.

29 c. The institute shall have the authority to raise private funds and
30 obtain public funds to be used toward scholarships, grants and studies
31 in the field of Italian and/or Italian American studies.

32 d. The commission shall appoint an Advisory Council to the
33 commission and institute. The advisory council shall consist of
34 individuals who have served prominently as spokespersons for, or as
35 leaders of, organizations in the Italian and Americans of Italian
36 heritage community which serve members of religious, ethnic, national
37 heritage or social groups or who are experienced in the field of Italian
38 and Americans of Italian heritage education.²

39
40 ²[5.] ²6. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$350,000
41 to the Department of Education to enable the Commission on Italian
42 and Americans of Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural
43 and Educational Programs¹ to effectuate the purposes of this act.

44
45 ²[6.] ²7. This act shall take effect immediately.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3693
(FIRST REPRINT)**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 15 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am appending to Assembly Bill No. 3693, at the time of signing it, my statement of items, or parts thereof, to which I object so that each item, or part thereof, so objected to shall not take effect.

This bill establishes the Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Culture and appropriates \$350,000 from the General Fund to this Commission. The purpose of the appropriation is to enable the Commission to fulfill its responsibilities and duties. These responsibilities and duties include giving assistance to and advising public and nonpublic schools on the positive contributions and achievement of Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage in our society and encouraging a recognition of those values, both cultural and historical, which derive from the Italian heritage. Further, the Commission must develop and implement educational and awareness programs regarding Italians and Americans of Italian Heritage for use in both public and nonpublic schools.

While I support establishing the Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Culture, I believe the appropriation should be limited. Accordingly, I am reducing the appropriation to \$250,000. This amount is consistent with the funding of other educational commissions.

Therefore, I herewith append the following statement of objections to the sums, or parts thereof, appropriated by this bill:

Page 6, Section 6, Line 40: Delete "\$350,000" insert "\$250,000"

Respectfully,

/s/ Donald T. DiFrancesco

Acting Governor, President of the Senate

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ James A. Harkness

Chief Counsel to the Governor

Title 18A.
Chapter 4.
Article 4. (New)
Italian Heritage
Cultural and
Educational
Programs.
§§1-5 - C.18A:4-42
to 18A:4-46
§6 - Approp. - LIV

P.L. 2001, CHAPTER 343, *approved January 5, 2002*
Assembly, No. 3693 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the New Jersey Commission on Italian and
2 Americans of Italian Heritage ¹**[Culture and Education]** Cultural
3 and Educational Programs¹, supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A
4 of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

5

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

8

9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. For the past several decades Hollywood and the communications
11 media have continuously portrayed ¹**[Italian]** Italians¹ and Americans
12 of Italian ¹**[Heritage]** heritage¹ as mobsters, buffoons and other
13 nefarious characters to such an extent that it appears to be an
14 orchestrated program of cultural dismemberment and disdain which
15 can and will promote ethnic bigotry and loss of cultural identity.

16 b. The exposure of our children and others to this unrelenting
17 barrage of negative images has led to the erosion and denigration of
18 Italian-American culture, history and heritage. It has, furthermore,
19 encouraged children to emulate negative role models and promoted the
20 social acceptability of disrespect for and bigotry towards Italians and
21 Americans of Italian ¹**[Heritage]** heritage¹ and their culture, history
22 and heritage--a culture, history and heritage shared by over 22 percent
23 of New Jersey's population.

24 c. The histories of our nation and our State have been significantly
25 enriched by the heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
26 ¹**[Heritage]** heritage¹. The cultural heritage of Italy includes the
27 classical civilization of Rome, the fine arts of the Renaissance, the
28 scientific and artistic genius of Da Vinci, the literary works of Dante
29 and Petrarch, the operas of Verdi and Puccini and many other
30 contributions that have ennobled civilization.

31 d. More than 5.4 million Italians emigrated to the United States

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ASG committee amendments adopted December 6, 2001.

² Governor's line-item veto changes of January 7, 2001.

1 between the years 1820 and 1991; today more than 2 million citizens
2 of this State are of Italian descent. Our nation and our State have
3 benefitted substantially from the influences and contributions of these
4 men, women and children and their distinctive culture, history and
5 heritage.

6 e. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the positive aspects
7 of the culture, music, art, language, history and heritage of Italians and
8 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹.

9 f. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that the culture,
10 history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
11 heritage¹ are a proper concern for all people, particularly students
12 enrolled in the schools of this State.

13 g. It is appropriate and desirable that programs, workshops,
14 institutes, seminars and other teacher-training activities for the study
15 of the culture, history and heritage of ¹[Italian] Italians¹ and
16 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ be conducted at the various
17 high schools and institutions of higher education in this State.

18 h. It is fitting and proper to establish a permanent State-level
19 commission to survey, design, encourage and promote the
20 implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
21 heritage¹ cultural and educational programs in this State, with
22 responsibility for the coordination of events that will provide
23 appropriate awareness and memorialization of the culture, history,
24 heritage and language of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
25 heritage¹ on a regular basis throughout the State.

26

27 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of
28 Italian Heritage ¹[Culture and Education] Cultural and Educational
29 Programs¹ is created and established in the Executive Branch of the
30 State Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions
31 of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,
32 the commission is allocated within the Department of Education, but
33 notwithstanding this allocation, the commission shall be independent
34 of any supervision or control by the department ¹[of] or¹ any board
35 or officer thereof.

36 The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the
37 Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the
38 Presidents' Council, serving ex officio, and 19 public members.

39 Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public members
40 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate ¹, at least one of
41 whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Italian studies or
42 language¹; five public members shall be appointed by the Speaker of
43 the General Assembly ¹, at least one of whom shall have a Masters'
44 degree in an area of Italian studies or language¹; and nine public
45 members shall be appointed by the Governor, no less than ¹[six] four¹

1 of whom shall at the time of their appointment have at least a Masters'
2 degree in an area of Italian studies or language. The public members
3 shall be residents of the State who have served prominently as
4 spokespersons for, or as leaders of, organizations in the Italian and
5 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ community which serve
6 members of religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups or who
7 are experienced in the field of Italian and Americans of Italian
8 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ education. To the greatest extent practicable,
9 they shall be chosen with due regard to afford the commission with
10 broad regional representation and ethnic diversity. ¹At least one-half
11 of the public members shall be of Italian descent.¹

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

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

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

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

40

41 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities and
42 duties:

43 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and experience
44 of its members, assistance and advice to the public and nonpublic
45 schools of this State with respect to the implementation of Italian and
46 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage culture and education] heritage

- 1 cultural and educational¹ programs;
- 2 b. To meet with county and local school officials and other
3 interested public and private organizations, for the purpose of
4 assisting with the planning, coordination or modification of courses of
5 study dealing with issues, matters and subjects concerning or relating
6 to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
7 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹;
- 8 c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Italian and
9 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ cultural awareness and
10 educational programs presently being incorporated into the curricula
11 and taught in the school systems of this State; to inventory those
12 Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ exhibits and
13 resources which may be incorporated into courses of study at various
14 locations throughout the State and, upon request, to assist the State
15 Department of Education and other educational agencies in the
16 development and implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian
17 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ cultural awareness and educational programs.
18 In furtherance of this responsibility, the commission shall be
19 authorized to contact and cooperate with existing Italian and
20 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ public or private nonprofit
21 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning issues and
22 topics involving and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
23 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ to members
24 of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and the New
25 Jersey Senate and General Assembly;
- 26 d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing to
27 share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars and
28 workshops on subjects concerning and relating to the culture, history
29 and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage]
30 heritage¹. These volunteers may be scholars, clergymen, community
31 relations professionals and other persons who, by virtue of their
32 experience, training or interest, have acquired personal or academic
33 knowledge of the culture, history and heritage of Italians and
34 Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and who are willing to
35 share that knowledge with students and teachers;
- 36 e. To coordinate events observing the culture, history and heritage
37 of Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ and to seek
38 volunteers who are willing and able to participate in commemorative
39 events that will enhance student awareness of the significance of the
40 culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian
41 ¹[Heritage] heritage¹;
- 42 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature
43 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion
44 of Italian and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹ studies and
45 special programs memorializing the culture, history and heritage of

1 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage ¹in the
2 educational system of this State; and

3 g. To develop, in consultation with the State Department of
4 Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and
5 topics concerning and relating to the culture, history and heritage of
6 Italians and Americans of Italian ¹[Heritage] heritage¹. To the
7 greatest extent practicable, each board of education shall incorporate
8 those guidelines as part of the curriculum for its district's elementary
9 and secondary school students.

10

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

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

21

22 ¹5. a. The commission shall create, establish and oversee the
23 Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies as an entity
24 whose purpose is to assist the commission in implementation of its
25 responsibilities as identified in section 3 of this act, P.L. , c. (C.)
26 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill). The commission
27 shall function as the board of governors for the institute. The
28 commission shall appoint an executive director of the institute who
29 shall serve at its pleasure.

30 b. The commission shall survey the New Jersey four-year
31 universities and colleges that have an advanced degree program in the
32 fields of Italian and/or Italian American studies and select one to serve
33 as host to the institute. The institute shall not be administered by the
34 college or university selected as the host site. The institute will
35 collaborate with and otherwise engage, share and exchange resources
36 with the higher education community of New Jersey and work to
37 establish mutually beneficial public service programs and activities
38 consistent with the mission of the commission.

39 c. The institute shall have the authority to raise private funds and
40 obtain public funds to be used toward scholarships, grants and studies
41 in the field of Italian and/or Italian American studies.

42 d. The commission shall appoint an Advisory Council to the
43 commission and institute. The advisory council shall consist of
44 individuals who have served prominently as spokespersons for, or as
45 leaders of, organizations in the Italian and Americans of Italian
46 heritage community which serve members of religious, ethnic, national

1 heritage or social groups or who are experienced in the field of Italian
2 and Americans of Italian heritage education.¹

3

4 ¹[5.] 6.¹ There is appropriated from the General Fund
5 ²[\$350,000] \$250,000² to the Department of Education to enable the
6 Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage ¹[Culture
7 and Education] Cultural and Educational Programs¹ to effectuate the
8 purposes of this act.

9

10 ¹[6.] 7.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

14

15 Establishes Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage
16 Cultural and Educational Programs; appropriates \$350,000.

CHAPTER 343

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs, supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

C.18A:4-42 Findings, declarations relative to Italian heritage and cultural and educational programs.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. For the past several decades Hollywood and the communications media have continuously portrayed Italians and Americans of Italian heritage as mobsters, buffoons and other nefarious characters to such an extent that it appears to be an orchestrated program of cultural dismemberment and disdain which can and will promote ethnic bigotry and loss of cultural identity.

b. The exposure of our children and others to this unrelenting barrage of negative images has led to the erosion and denigration of Italian-American culture, history and heritage. It has, furthermore, encouraged children to emulate negative role models and promoted the social acceptability of disrespect for and bigotry towards Italians and Americans of Italian heritage and their culture, history and heritage--a culture, history and heritage shared by over 22 percent of New Jersey's population.

c. The histories of our nation and our State have been significantly enriched by the heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage. The cultural heritage of Italy includes the classical civilization of Rome, the fine arts of the Renaissance, the scientific and artistic genius of Da Vinci, the literary works of Dante and Petrarch, the operas of Verdi and Puccini and many other contributions that have ennobled civilization.

d. More than 5.4 million Italians emigrated to the United States between the years 1820 and 1991; today more than 2 million citizens of this State are of Italian descent. Our nation and our State have benefitted substantially from the influences and contributions of these men, women and children and their distinctive culture, history and heritage.

e. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the positive aspects of the culture, music, art, language, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage.

f. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage are a proper concern for all people, particularly students enrolled in the schools of this State.

g. It is appropriate and desirable that programs, workshops, institutes, seminars and other teacher-training activities for the study of the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage be conducted at the various high schools and institutions of higher education in this State.

h. It is fitting and proper to establish a permanent State-level commission to survey, design, encourage and promote the implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage cultural and educational programs in this State, with responsibility for the coordination of events that will provide appropriate awareness and memorialization of the culture, history, heritage and language of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage on a regular basis throughout the State.

C.18A:4-43 New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs.

2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs is created and established in the Executive Branch of the State Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the commission is allocated within the Department of Education, but notwithstanding this allocation, the commission shall be independent of any supervision or control by the department or any board or officer thereof.

The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the Commissioner of Education and the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council, serving *ex officio*, and 19 public members.

Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, at least one of whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Italian

studies or language; five public members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, at least one of whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Italian studies or language; and nine public members shall be appointed by the Governor, no less than four of whom shall at the time of their appointment have at least a Masters' degree in an area of Italian studies or language. The public members shall be residents of the State who have served prominently as spokespersons for, or as leaders of, organizations in the Italian and Americans of Italian heritage community which serve members of religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups or who are experienced in the field of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage education. To the greatest extent practicable, they shall be chosen with due regard to afford the commission with broad regional representation and ethnic diversity. At least one-half of the public members shall be of Italian descent.

b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed: one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and two members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one year; two members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and three members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of two years; and two members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and four members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of three years. Public members shall be eligible for reappointment. They shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of the term of that incumbent. 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.

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

d. The commission annually shall elect a chairman from among its members. It shall meet upon the call of the chairman or of a majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority of the authorized membership of the commission shall be required for the conduct of official business.

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

C.18A:4-44 Responsibilities, duties of commission.

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

a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and experience of its members, assistance and advice to the public and nonpublic schools of this State with respect to the implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage cultural and educational programs;

b. To meet with county and local school officials and other interested public and private organizations, for the purpose of assisting with the planning, coordination or modification of courses of study dealing with issues, matters and subjects concerning or relating to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage;

c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage cultural awareness and educational programs presently being incorporated into the curricula and taught in the school systems of this State; to inventory those Italian and Americans of Italian heritage exhibits and resources which may be incorporated into courses of study at various locations throughout the State and, upon request, to assist the State Department of Education and other educational agencies in the development and implementation of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage cultural awareness and educational programs. In furtherance of this responsibility, the commission shall be authorized to contact and cooperate with existing Italian and Americans of Italian heritage public or private nonprofit resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning issues and topics involving and relating to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage to members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly;

d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars and workshops on subjects concerning and relating to the

culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage. These volunteers may be scholars, clergymen, community relations professionals and other persons who, by virtue of their experience, training or interest, have acquired personal or academic knowledge of the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage and who are willing to share that knowledge with students and teachers;

e. To coordinate events observing the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage and to seek volunteers who are willing and able to participate in commemorative events that will enhance student awareness of the significance of the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage;

f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage studies and special programs memorializing the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage in the educational system of this State; and

g. To develop, in consultation with the State Department of Education, curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and topics concerning and relating to the culture, history and heritage of Italians and Americans of Italian heritage. To the greatest extent practicable, each board of education shall incorporate those guidelines as part of the curriculum for its district's elementary and secondary school students.

C.18A:4-45 Assistance to commission.

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

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

C.18A:4-46 Duties of commission relative to Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies.

5. a. The commission shall create, establish and oversee the Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies as an entity whose purpose is to assist the commission in implementation of its responsibilities as identified in section 3 of this act, P.L.2001, c.343 (C.18A:4-44). The commission shall function as the board of governors for the institute. The commission shall appoint an executive director of the institute who shall serve at its pleasure.

b. The commission shall survey the New Jersey four-year universities and colleges that have an advanced degree program in the fields of Italian and/or Italian American studies and select one to serve as host to the institute. The institute shall not be administered by the college or university selected as the host site. The institute will collaborate with and otherwise engage, share and exchange resources with the higher education community of New Jersey and work to establish mutually beneficial public service programs and activities consistent with the mission of the commission.

c. The institute shall have the authority to raise private funds and obtain public funds to be used toward scholarships, grants and studies in the field of Italian and/or Italian American studies.

d. The commission shall appoint an Advisory Council to the commission and institute. The advisory council shall consist of individuals who have served prominently as spokespersons for, or as leaders of, organizations in the Italian and Americans of Italian heritage community which serve members of religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups or who are experienced in the field of Italian and Americans of Italian heritage education.

6. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$250,000 to the Department of Education to enable the Commission on Italian and Americans of Italian Heritage Cultural and Educational Programs to effectuate the purposes of this act.

7. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 5, 2002.