

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 273, *approved January 14, 2026*
Senate, No. 4809

1 AN ACT concerning the Commission on Latino and Hispanic
2 Heritage and amending P.L.2019, c.321.

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

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48) is amended to
8 read as follows:

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

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

20 Public members shall be appointed as follows: five public
21 members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate【, at least
22 one of whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Latino or
23 Hispanic studies or culture】; five public members shall be
24 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly【, at least one of
25 whom shall have a Masters' degree in an area of Latino or Hispanic
26 studies or culture】; and nine public members shall be appointed by
27 the Governor【, no less than four of whom shall at the time of their
28 appointment have at least a Masters' degree in an area of Latino or
29 Hispanic studies or culture】. The public members shall be residents
30 of the State who have 【served prominently as spokespersons for, or
31 as leaders of, organizations in the Latino or Hispanic heritage
32 community which serve members of religious, ethnic, national
33 heritage, or social groups or who are experienced in the field of
34 Latino or Hispanic heritage education】 knowledge and experience
35 in Latino or Hispanic studies or education. To the greatest extent
36 practicable, they shall be chosen with due regard to provide the
37 commission with broad regional representation and ethnic diversity.
38 At least one-half of the public members shall be of Latino or
39 Hispanic descent.

40 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a
41 term of three years, except that of the initial members appointed:
42 one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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

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

19 d. The commission annually shall elect a chairperson from
20 among its members. It shall meet upon the call of the chair or of a
21 majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority
22 of the authorized membership of the commission shall be required
23 for the conduct of official business.

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

27 (cf: P.L.2019, c.321, s.2)

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill revises certain membership requirements of the
35 Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage.

36 Under current State law, the Commission on Latino and Hispanic
37 Heritage is a permanent State-level commission tasked with
38 surveying, designing, encouraging, and promoting the
39 implementation of Latino and Hispanic cultural and educational
40 programs in the State.

41 Current law requires the Governor to appoint nine public
42 members to the commission, with no less than four of the
43 appointees required to have at least a Masters' degree in an area of
44 Latino or Hispanic studies or culture. Similarly, one of the five
45 public members appointed by the President of the Senate, and one
46 of the five public members appointed by the Speaker of the General
47 Assembly, are required to hold a Master's degree in an area of
48 Latino or Hispanic studies or culture. This bill removes the

1 requirement for these public members to hold Master's degrees and
2 removes a requirement from current law that public members are
3 required to have served prominently as spokespersons for, or as
4 leaders of, organizations in the Latino or Hispanic heritage
5 community which serve members of religious, ethnic, national
6 heritage, or social groups or who are experienced in the field of
7 Latino or Hispanic heritage education. Instead, the bill requires the
8 public members to have knowledge and experience in Latino or
9 Hispanic studies or education.

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14 Revises certain membership requirements of Commission on
15 Latino and Hispanic Heritage.