

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee

BILL: CS/SB 1726

SPONSOR: Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee and Senator Wilson and others

SUBJECT: The Social Status of Black Men and Boys

DATE: April 26, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rousseau/Collins	Whiddon	CF	Fav/2 amendments
2.	Wilson	Wilson	GO	Fav/CS
3.			JA	
4.			WM	
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill creates the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys and provides for the appointment and qualification of members. This bill requires the Attorney General to organize the initial meeting of the council and provide staff and administrative support to the council. The council is directed to make a systematic study of the conditions affecting black men and boys, including the homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual income levels, and health issues.

The council is directed to propose measures to alleviate and correct the underlying causes of the conditions described above. The council is to issue its initial annual report by December 15, 2006, with its findings, conclusions, and recommendations and issue a report by December 15 of each year thereafter.

The bill appropriates \$50,000 from the General Revenue Fund for the council.

The bill creates an undesignated section of law.

II. Present Situation:

For a number of reasons, several groups throughout Florida are concerned about the social status of black men and boys. It has been shown, for example, that black men and boys are disproportionately represented in Florida's correctional facilities. According to the Department of Corrections, on June 30, 2004, there were 81,974 inmates in the Florida prison system. The majority of these inmates were male (76,675 or 93.5 percent) and Black (42,572 or 51.9 percent).

However, the percentage of Black inmates in prison is decreasing (58.0 percent in June 1994 to 51.9 percent in June 2004).¹

There is also concern about the number of Black students dropping out of high school. The Department of Education reported in January 2005 that while the majority of dropouts in 2003-04 were white students, dropout rates were highest among Black and Hispanic students. Of the 25,587 dropouts reported for grades 9-12 in the 2003-04 school year, 7,801 (30.5 percent) were Black. The dropout rate for Blacks fell from 5.5 percent in 1999-00 to 3.6 percent in 2003-04. Dropout rates also vary by gender group, with males having a higher percentage of dropouts than females.²

According to the 2000 census summary report, the median income for Black males 15 and over was \$18,601 compared to \$27,763 for white males. For full-time, year-round workers, the median income was \$22,364 for Black males and \$36,198 for white males.³

According to the Florida Department of Health (DOH), in 2003, 9,188 Black males died in Florida. The age-adjusted death rate for non-whites was 9.1 per 1,000 people in 2003 which was an improvement from 1998 when the rate was 10.2 deaths per 1,000 people. The HIV rate for Black males was 42.8 per 100,000 in 2003. In 2003, Black males born in Florida had a life expectancy of 72 years, reports DOH. The life expectancy has increased since 1998 when it was 70.2 years. The life expectancy for nonwhite males born in 2003 was 3.9 years less than for white males.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill establishes the Council on the Social Status of Black men and boys to study the conditions affecting black men and boys including homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual income levels, and health issues. This bill specifies that the council must:

- Propose measures to alleviate and correct the underlying causes of the conditions described above;
- Study other topics suggested by the Legislature or as directed by the chairperson of the council;
- Receive suggestions or comments pertinent to the applicable issue from members of the Legislature, governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and private citizens;
- Issue its initial annual report by December 15, 2006, and by December 15th of each following year, stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the council.
- Include in the initial report the findings of an investigation into factors causing Black-on-Black crime from the perspective of public health related to mental health, other health issues, cultural disconnection, and cultural identity trauma;

¹ Florida Department of Corrections FY 2003-04 Annual Report, page 21.

² Florida DOE, Florida Information Note, "Dropout Demographics in Florida's Public Schools, and Dropout Rates", January 2005.

³ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 Summary File 4, Tables QT-P33 and PCT 130.

⁴ Florida Department of Health, Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report 2003.

- Meet quarterly with additional meetings to be held at the call of the chairperson or a majority of the council members.

This bill provides that the council be composed of 19 members and specifies the membership of the council. Each member of the council shall be appointed to a four-year term. Members of the council are allowed to receive per diem and travel reimbursement as provided in s. 112.061, F.S. The Office of the Attorney General is directed to provide staff and administrative support to the council. The council shall include:

- Two members of the Senate who are not members of the same political party, appointed by the President of the Senate with the advice of the minority leader of the Senate;
- Two members of the House of Representatives who are not members of the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with the advice of the minority leader of the House of Representatives;
- The Secretary of Children and Family Services or his or her designee;
- The director of the Mental Health Program Office within the Department of Children and Family Services or his or her designee;
- The Secretary of Health or his or her designee;
- The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;
- The Secretary of Corrections or his or her designee;
- The Attorney General or his or her designee;
- The Secretary of Management Services or his or her designee;
- The director of Workforce Innovation or his or her designee;
- A business person of African-American origin appointed by the Governor;
- Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state government. One of these appointments must be a clinical physiologist;
- Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state government. One of these appointments must be an Africana studies professional;
- The deputy secretary for Medicaid in the Agency for Health Care Administration or his or her designee;
- The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her designee;

The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the council.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill appropriates the sum of \$50,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the council.

The Attorney General's Office estimates that this bill will cost \$248,643 in recurring funds and \$14,946 in non-recurring funds. This estimate includes salary and benefits for three Full Time Employees, Other Personnel Services, expenses, and operating capital outlay. These estimates were formulated using the Commission on the Status of Women as a model.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
