

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the social status of black men and  
 3           boys; creating the Council on the Social Status of Black  
 4           Men and Boys; providing for the appointment and  
 5           qualification of members; providing for the appointment of  
 6           members to fill vacant positions; requiring the council to  
 7           make a systematic study of conditions affecting black men  
 8           and boys; requiring the Office of the Attorney General to  
 9           provide administrative support; requiring the council to  
 10          submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature;  
 11          providing for reimbursement for per diem and travel  
 12          expenses; providing that the council and any subcommittees  
 13          it forms are subject to public records and meetings  
 14          requirements; providing financial disclosure requirements  
 15          for council members; requiring the Attorney General to  
 16          organize the initial meeting of the council; providing for  
 17          the expiration of the council; providing an effective  
 18          date.

19  
 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 22           Section 1. Council on the Social Status of Black Men and  
 23 Boys.--

24           (1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys  
 25 is established within the Department of Legal Affairs and shall  
 26 consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

27        (a) Two members of the Senate who are not members of the  
 28 same political party, appointed by the President of the Senate  
 29 with the advice of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

30        (b) Two members of the House of Representatives who are  
 31 not members of the same political party, appointed by the  
 32 Speaker of the House of Representatives with the advice of the  
 33 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

34        (c) The Secretary of Children and Family Services or his  
 35 or her designee.

36        (d) The director of the Mental Health Program Office  
 37 within the Department of Children and Family Services or his or  
 38 her designee.

39        (e) The Secretary of Health or his or her designee.

40        (f) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

41        (g) The Secretary of Corrections or his or her designee.

42        (h) The Attorney General or his or her designee.

43        (i) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her  
 44 designee.

45        (j) The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or  
 46 his or her designee.

47        (k) A businessperson of black origin appointed by the  
 48 Governor.

49        (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate  
 50 who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state  
 51 government. One of the appointees must be a clinical  
 52 psychologist.

53        (m) Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
 54 Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or  
 55 employed by state government. One of the appointees must be an  
 56 Africana studies professional.

57        (n) The deputy secretary for Medicaid in the Agency for  
 58 Health Care Administration or his or her designee.

59        (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her  
 60 designee.

61        (2) Each member of the council shall be appointed to a 4-  
 62 year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered  
 63 terms, of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed  
 64 to 2-year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year  
 65 terms. A member of the council may be removed at any time by the  
 66 member's appointing authority who shall fill the vacancy on the  
 67 council.

68        (3) (a) At the first meeting of the council each year, the  
 69 members shall elect a chair and a vice chair.

70        (b) A vacancy in the office of chair or vice chair shall  
 71 be filled by vote of the remaining members.

72        (4) (a) The council shall make a systematic study of the  
 73 conditions affecting black men and boys, including, but not  
 74 limited to, homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates,  
 75 poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual  
 76 income levels, school performance in all grade levels including  
 77 postsecondary levels, and health issues.

78        (b) The council shall propose measures to alleviate and  
 79 correct the underlying causes of the conditions described in

80 paragraph (a). These measures may consist of changes to the law  
81 or systematic changes that can be implemented without  
82 legislative action.

83 (c) The council may study other topics suggested by the  
84 Legislature or as directed by the chair of the council.

85 (d) The council shall receive suggestions or comments  
86 pertinent to the applicable issues from members of the  
87 Legislature, governmental agencies, public and private  
88 organizations, and private citizens.

89 (5) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff  
90 and administrative support to the council.

91 (6) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at  
92 the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council  
93 members and approved by the Attorney General.

94 (7) Eleven of the members of the council shall constitute  
95 a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
96 present is required for final action.

97 (8) (a) The council shall issue its first annual report by  
98 December 15, 2007, and by December 15 each following year,  
99 stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the  
100 council. The council shall submit the report to the Governor,  
101 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
102 Representatives, and the chairpersons of the standing committees  
103 of jurisdiction in each chamber.

104 (b) The initial report must include the findings of an  
105 investigation into factors causing black-on-black crime from the  
106 perspective of public health related to mental health, other

107 health issues, cultural disconnection, and cultural identity  
108 trauma.

109 (9) Members of the council shall serve without  
110 compensation. Members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
111 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.  
112 State officers and employees shall be reimbursed from the budget  
113 of the agency through which they serve. Other members may be  
114 reimbursed by the Department of Legal Affairs.

115 (10) The council and any subcommittees it forms shall be  
116 subject to the provisions of chapter 119, Florida Statutes,  
117 related to public records, and the provisions of chapter 286,  
118 Florida Statutes, related to public meetings.

119 (11) Each member of the council who is not otherwise  
120 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.  
121 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, Florida  
122 Statutes, must file a disclosure of financial interests pursuant  
123 to s. 112.3145, Florida Statutes.

124 (12) Notwithstanding subsection (6), the Attorney General  
125 shall:

126 (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this act,  
127 fix a date for the initial meeting of the council.

128 (b) Notify each member of the council of the time, date,  
129 and place where the initial meeting will be held.

130 (c) Make any other arrangements concerning the initial  
131 meeting of the council.

132 (d) Serve as the presiding officer at the initial meeting  
133 of the council until a chair is elected.

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134           (13) This section expires July 1, 2012, unless reenacted  
135 by the Legislature.

136           Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2007.