

By Senator Wilson

33-17-06

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

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 21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 23           Section 1. Legislative findings.--The Legislature  
 24 finds that there is a chronological record of the status of  
 25 black men and boys in American society, and in this state's  
 26 society, which reveals startling and disturbing conditions and  
 27 trends. This record includes a disproportionate share of black  
 28 men and boys in this state's correctional facilities; a higher  
 29 rate of black men and boys being victimized by black-on-black  
 30 crime; a higher drop-out rate from high school; an average  
 31 income lower than that of other segments of society, along

1 with a lowering of the income earned; a higher death rate from  
2 illness; and a lower life expectancy than males in other  
3 ethnic and racial groups.

4 Section 2. Council on the Social Status of Black Men  
5 and Boys.--

6 (1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and  
7 Boys is established and shall consist of 19 members appointed  
8 as follows:

9 (a) Two members of the Senate who are not members of  
10 the same political party, appointed by the President of the  
11 Senate with the advice of the minority leader of the Senate.

12 (b) Two members of the House of Representatives who  
13 are not members of the same political party, appointed by the  
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives with the advice of the  
15 minority leader of the House of Representatives.

16 (c) The Secretary of Children and Family Services or  
17 his or her designee.

18 (d) The director of the Mental Health Program Office  
19 within the Department of Children and Family Services or his  
20 or her designee.

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

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

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

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

27 (i) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her  
28 designee.

29 (j) The director of Workforce Innovation or his or her  
30 designee.

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1           (k) A business person of African-American origin  
2 appointed by the Governor.

3           (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the  
4 Senate who are not members of the Legislature or employed by  
5 state government. One of the appointments must be a clinical  
6 physiologist.

7           (m) Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House  
8 of Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or  
9 employed by state government. One of the appointments must be  
10 an Africana studies professional.

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

13           (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her  
14 designee.

15           (2) Each member of the council shall be appointed to a  
16 4-year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered  
17 terms, of the initial appointments 10 members shall be  
18 appointed to 2-year terms and 11 members shall be appointed to  
19 4-year terms. A member of the council may be removed at any  
20 time by the member's appointing authority, who shall fill the  
21 vacancy on the council for the remainder of the unexpired  
22 term. The terms of the legislative members expire at the time  
23 they cease to hold legislative office, and the vacancy shall  
24 be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

25           (3)(a) At the first meeting of the council each year,  
26 the members shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson.

27           (b) A vacancy in the office of chairperson or vice  
28 chairperson shall be filled by vote of the remaining members.

29           (4)(a) The council shall make a systematic study of  
30 the conditions affecting black men and boys, including, but  
31 not limited to, the homicide rates, arrest and incarceration

1 rates, poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate  
2 annual income levels, and health issues.

3 (b) The council shall propose measures to alleviate  
4 and correct the underlying causes of the conditions described  
5 in paragraph (a). These measures may consist of changes to law  
6 or systemic changes that can be implemented without  
7 legislative actions.

8 (c) The council may study other topics suggested by  
9 the Legislature or as directed by the chairperson of the  
10 council.

11 (d) The council shall receive suggestions or comments  
12 pertinent to the applicable issues from members of the  
13 Legislature, governmental agencies, public and private  
14 organizations, and private citizens.

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

17 (6) The council shall meet quarterly and additional  
18 meetings may be held at the call of the chairperson and at  
19 other times as determined by a majority of council members.

20 (7) Eleven of the members of the council constitute a  
21 quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
22 present is required for final action.

23 (8)(a) The council shall issue its initial annual  
24 report by December 15, 2007, and by December 15th of each  
25 following year, stating the findings, conclusions, and  
26 recommendations of the council. This report shall be submitted  
27 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
28 the House of Representatives, and the chairpersons of the  
29 standing committees of jurisdiction in each chamber.

30 (b) The initial report must include the findings of an  
31 investigation into factors causing black-on-black crime from

1 the perspective of public health related to mental health,  
2 other health issues, cultural disconnection, and cultural  
3 identity trauma.

4 (9) Members of the council shall serve without  
5 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
6 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida  
7 Statutes.

8 (10) Notwithstanding subsection (6), the Attorney  
9 General shall:

10 (a) Fix a date for the initial meeting of the council;

11 (b) Notify each member of the council of the time,  
12 date, and place where the initial meeting will be held;

13 (c) Make any other arrangements concerning the initial  
14 meeting of the council; and

15 (d) Serve as the presiding officer at the initial  
16 meeting of the council until a chairperson is elected.

17 (11) This section expires July 1, 2012, unless  
18 reenacted by the Legislature.

19 Section 3. A sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the  
20 General Revenue Fund for the Council on the Social Status of  
21 Black Men and Boys.

22 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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25 SENATE SUMMARY

26 Creates the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and  
27 Boys to study the conditions affecting black men and boys  
28 and to issue an annual report. Provides for the Office of  
the Attorney General to provide administrative support.  
29 Provides for the council to expire on July 1, 2012.  
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