

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity;
and Senators Wilson and Hill

585-1992-06

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, which is an advisory council as defined in s. 20.03(7),
8 is established adjunct to the Department of Legal Affairs. The
9 council shall consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 psychologist.

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 9 members shall be
18 appointed to 2-year terms and 10 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, school performance in all grades,
3 including postsecondary grades, and health issues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 (b) The initial report must include the findings of an
2 investigation into factors causing black-on-black crime from
3 the perspective of public health related to mental health,
4 other health issues, cultural disconnection, and cultural
5 identity trauma.

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

10 (10) The council and any subcommittees it forms shall
11 be subject to the provisions of chapter 119, Florida Statutes,
12 relating to public records, and the provisions of chapter 286,
13 Florida Statutes, relating to public meetings.

14 (11) Each member of the council who is not otherwise
15 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to
16 Section 8, Article II of the State Constitution or s.
17 112.3144, Florida Statutes, must file a disclosure of
18 financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145, Florida Statutes.

19 (12) Notwithstanding subsection (6), the Attorney
20 General shall:

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

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

24 (c) Make any other arrangements concerning the initial
25 meeting of the council; and

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

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

30 Section 3. A sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the
31 General Revenue Fund to the Office of the Attorney General for

1 reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses for the Council
2 on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

3 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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5 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
7 Senate Bill 436

8 Creates the council in the Department of Legal Affairs.

9 Clarifies that the council is an advisory council.

10 Requires financial disclosure statements for council members
11 who are not otherwise required to file such statements.

12 Corrects technical errors.
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