

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

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3 Section 1. Section 267.175, Florida Statutes, is
4 created to read:

5 267.175 Florida African-American Culture and Heritage
6 Initiative Commission.--

7 (1) CREATION.--The Florida African-American Culture
8 and Heritage Initiative Commission is created within the
9 Department of State for the purposes of:

10 (a) Broadening, deepening, and diversifying statewide
11 participation in and appreciation of African-American arts,
12 history, and culture;

13 (b) Assisting educational institutions with
14 incorporating African-American history and culture in the
15 curriculum in accordance with state law; and

16 (c) Fulfilling other duties and goals provided in the
17 description of the Florida African-American Culture and
18 Heritage Initiative in subsection (7).

19 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The commission shall consist of the
20 following members:

21 (a) Eleven members appointed as follows:

22 1. Seven members appointed by, and serving at the
23 pleasure of, the Governor.

24 2. Two members appointed by, and serving at the
25 pleasure of, the President of the Senate.

26 3. Two members appointed by, and serving at the
27 pleasure of, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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29 Appointees shall be representatives of the general public who
30 represent a broad cross-section of the views and interests of
31 the community and the member organizations of the commission,

1 including educators, clergy, and civic and business leaders;
2 philanthropists; visual, creative, and performing artists;
3 representatives of African-American arts, history, and
4 cultural organizations; and persons having knowledge of,
5 expertise in, or commitment to preserving the state's
6 African-American culture and heritage.

7 (b) The Secretary of State or his or her designee.

8 (c) The Commissioner of Education or his or her
9 designee.

10 (d) The executive director of the Office of Tourism,
11 Trade, and Economic Development.

12 (e) The chair of the Florida Historical Commission.

13 (f) The chair of the Florida Arts Council.

14 (g) The chair of the Board of Directors of Visit
15 Florida or his or her designee.

16 (3) TERMS; VACANCIES.--Each appointed member shall
17 serve a term of 4 years and shall be eligible for
18 reappointment. If a position becomes vacant, a successor shall
19 be appointed in the manner of the original appointment for
20 such position.

21 (4) OFFICERS; BYLAWS; MEETINGS.--

22 (a) The commission shall elect from among its members
23 a chair, a vice chair, and such other officers as the
24 commission deems necessary or expedient in the performance of
25 its duties. Election of officers shall occur at the first
26 meeting of the commission and every 4 years thereafter or
27 sooner if a vacancy occurs.

28 (b) A majority of the total membership shall
29 constitute a quorum. No vacancy in the membership shall impair
30 the right of a quorum to exercise all of the functions and
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1 duties of the commission. All action taken by the commission
2 shall be by majority vote of those members present.

3 (c) The commission shall adopt bylaws for the conduct
4 of its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind
5 its bylaws. The commission shall publish its bylaws in
6 convenient form and shall file with the Department of State a
7 copy of such bylaws and a copy of any amendment to such
8 bylaws.

9 (d) The initial meeting of the commission shall be
10 held no later than October 1, 2007. Subsequent meetings shall
11 be held upon the call of the chair or vice chair, acting in
12 the absence of the chair, and in accordance with the
13 commission's bylaws.

14 (e) Records and meetings of the commission shall be
15 subject to the provisions of chapters 119 and 286.

16 (5) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.--Members shall serve
17 without compensation, except that members are entitled to per
18 diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, incurred in
19 the performance of their duties.

20 (6) DUTIES.--

21 (a) The commission shall develop a statewide plan for
22 implementation of the initiative. The plan shall be developed
23 to encourage and support participation in development of the
24 plan and in its implementation by all interested groups
25 throughout the state. The commission shall work with
26 representatives from the state's tourism industries, cultural
27 and historical venues, entertainment industry, K-20
28 educational institutions, local governments, state and federal
29 agencies, and others as necessary in the preparation and
30 implementation of the plan.

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1 **(b) The commission shall submit the initial plan to**
2 **the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of**
3 **the House of Representatives no later than January 1, 2009. An**
4 **updated plan shall be presented no later than January 1 of**
5 **each succeeding year.**

6 **(c) The commission shall be responsible for providing**
7 **such other assistance and advice to the department as may be**
8 **required from time to time in matters pertaining to the**
9 **implementation of the Florida African-American Culture and**
10 **Heritage Initiative, including, but not limited to, activities**
11 **of the citizen support organization created by this section**
12 **for the purpose of raising funds and assisting in the**
13 **development and implementation of the initiative.**

14 **(7) FLORIDA AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE**
15 **INITIATIVE.--The Florida African-American Culture and Heritage**
16 **Initiative shall be an alliance of organizations and**
17 **institutions that comprise the African-American arts, history,**
18 **and culture communities in this state for the purposes of the**
19 **commission. The duties and goals of the initiative shall**
20 **include, but not be limited to, the following:**

21 **(a) Promoting understanding and appreciation of the**
22 **history and artistic and cultural contributions of people of**
23 **African descent;**

24 **(b) Providing guidance, support, and resources for new**
25 **and emerging African-American arts and historical groups and**
26 **increasing the level of organizational capacity and program**
27 **administration of established groups;**

28 **(c) Increasing funding and audiences for local**
29 **African-American culture and heritage tourism and enriching**
30 **African-American culture and heritage tourism programming;**
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1 (d) Increasing and attracting corporate sponsorship
2 and participation in African-American culture and heritage
3 programming and tourism;

4 (e) Increasing opportunities for young people to learn
5 about and experience African-American arts, history, and
6 culture in schools and youth organizations;

7 (f) Investing in future generations of
8 African-American artists and historians by providing
9 leadership development activities, apprenticeships,
10 mentorship, scholarships, and cultural programs;

11 (g) Enhancing computer and Internet access and usage
12 within the African-American community; and

13 (h) Ensuring the financial viability of the initiative
14 through a network of community partners, advocates, and
15 supporters, including, but not limited to celebrities,
16 philanthropists, public officials, state and local leaders,
17 and corporations.

18 (8) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.--

19 (a) Subject to appropriation, the department shall
20 provide administrative support and consulting services to the
21 commission for the commission's activities and duties as
22 provided in this section.

23 (b) The Secretary of State may appoint subcommittees
24 or advisory committees as requested by the commission, which
25 may include persons who are not members of the commission.
26 Such persons shall not be entitled to compensation but shall
27 be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
28 performance of their duties.

29 (c) The Department of State may enter into contracts
30 with, or accept loans or grants of money, property, or
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1 personal services from, any agency, corporation, or person to
2 carry out the requirements of this section.

3 (d)1. The Division of Historical Resources of the
4 Department of State may support the establishment of a citizen
5 support organization pursuant to s. 267.17 to assist the
6 commission in carrying out the purposes of the commission and
7 in attaining the goals of the initiative. The citizen support
8 organization may receive funds from the general public or
9 other public or private sources for the purpose of funding its
10 activities and implementing the provisions of this section. In
11 addition to funds received from the general public or other
12 public and private sources, the organization may receive funds
13 from state agencies at such times and in such amounts as may
14 be appropriated by the Legislature. All funds received by the
15 citizen support organization other than those necessary to pay
16 the expenses of the commission shall be used exclusively for
17 the establishment, support, and promotion of the Florida
18 African-American Culture and Heritage Initiative.

19 2. Costs to underwrite activities related to the
20 commission administration and the activities of the commission
21 to address its purposes outlined in this section may be borne
22 from revenues raised by the citizen support organization.

23 (e) The commission shall make recommendations for
24 funding to the Secretary of State, and the department shall
25 include requests for funding for the commission and for the
26 plan in the department's legislative budget request, as the
27 secretary deems appropriate.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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