

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to education; creating the Minority or Underrepresented Student Achievement Council; providing for the appointment and qualification of members; providing requirements for meetings; providing for reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses; providing the duties of the council; requiring the Commissioner of Education to organize the initial meeting of the council; requiring the council to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature; requiring the Department of Education to provide administrative support; requiring each school board to discuss the number of high school students taking advanced placement courses; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Minority or Underrepresented Student Achievement Council.--

(1) There is created the Minority or Underrepresented Student Achievement Council for the purpose of identifying and recruiting minority or underrepresented high school students who are eligible to participate in advanced placement courses.

(a) The council shall consist of the following members:

1. The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.
2. One public high school teacher.
3. One community-based representative.
4. One representative from a school district.

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29 5. One representative from a community college.

30 6. One representative from a college or university.

31 7. A parent.

32 (b) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
33 House of Representatives shall jointly appoint the members of
34 the council described in subparagraphs (a)2.-7. by July 15,
35 2007. Four of the seven members must be persons of African-
36 American or Hispanic origin.

37 (c) The council shall hold its first meeting by August 1,
38 2007, at which time the members shall select by majority vote a
39 chairperson from among the council members.

40 (d) All recommendations of the council shall be by
41 majority vote.

42 (e) The council shall meet quarterly and additional
43 meetings may be held at the call of the chairperson and at other
44 times as determined by a majority of members of the council.

45 (f) Members of the council shall serve without
46 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
47 travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

48 (2) The members of the council shall:

49 (a) Work to recruit minority or underrepresented high
50 school students who are eligible to participate in advanced
51 placement courses by identifying students who perform above
52 average academically according to their grades or SAT or ACT
53 scores and whose assessments indicate the potential to earn a
54 bachelor's degree in 4 years or less.

55 (b) Identify each minority or underrepresented student who
56 receives the grade of "A" or "B" in the majority of his or her

57 core courses during the first semester of the student's freshman
58 year and notify his or her parents in writing that the student
59 is eligible to take advanced placement courses beginning in the
60 second semester of the student's freshman year.

61 (c) Examine best practices from high-performing public
62 high schools across the United States to learn how to close the
63 achievement gap between minority or underrepresented students
64 and nonminority students.

65 (3) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee
66 shall:

67 (a) Notify each member of the council of the time, date,
68 and place where the initial meeting will be held;

69 (b) Make any other arrangements concerning the initial
70 meeting of the council; and

71 (c) Serve as the presiding officer at the initial meeting
72 of the council until a chairperson is elected.

73 (4) The council shall issue its initial annual report by
74 December 15, 2008, and by December 15th of each following year,
75 stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the
76 council. This report shall be submitted to the Governor, the
77 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
78 Representatives and placed on the Department of Education's
79 website.

80 (5) The Department of Education shall provide staff and
81 administrative support to the council.

82 Section 2. Each school board in this state shall annually
83 discuss during a meeting of the school board the number of
84 students, by ethnicity, gender, and zip code, who have taken two

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85 or more advanced placement courses by their junior year in high
86 school.

87 Section 3. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the
88 General Revenue Fund for the Minority or Underrepresented
89 Student Achievement Council.

90 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.