

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida African-American Culture
3 and Heritage Initiative; creating s. 267.175, F.S.;
4 creating the Florida African-American Culture and Heritage
5 Initiative Commission within the Department of State for
6 certain purposes; providing for commission membership;
7 providing for terms of members; providing for successor
8 appointment; providing for election of officers; requiring
9 the commission to adopt bylaws; providing for commission
10 meetings; specifying serving without compensation;
11 providing for per diem and travel expenses; requiring the
12 commission to develop a plan for certain purposes;
13 requiring a report to the Governor and the Legislature;
14 providing responsibilities of the department; authorizing
15 the appointment of committees and subcommittees; requiring
16 the commission to provide advice and assistance to the
17 department regarding plan implementation and activities of
18 a citizen support organization; describing the Florida
19 African-American Culture and Heritage Initiative;
20 specifying duties and goals of the initiative; authorizing
21 the department to enter into contracts or accept loans or
22 grants for money, property, or personal services to
23 implement requirements; providing for the establishment of
24 a citizen support organization for certain purposes;
25 providing for legislative budget request; providing an
26 effective date.

27
28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 30 Section 1. Section 267.175, Florida Statutes, is created
 31 to read:

32 267.175 Florida African-American Culture and Heritage
 33 Initiative Commission.--

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

37 (a) Broadening, deepening, and diversifying statewide
 38 participation in and appreciation of African-American arts,
 39 history, and culture;

40 (b) Assisting educational institutions with incorporating
 41 African-American history and culture in the curriculum in
 42 accordance with state law; and

43 (c) Fulfilling other duties and goals provided in the
 44 description of the Florida African-American Culture and Heritage
 45 Initiative in subsection (7).

46 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The commission shall consist of the
 47 following members:

48 (a) Eleven members appointed as follows:

49 1. Seven members appointed by, and serving at the pleasure
 50 of, the Governor.

51 2. Two members appointed by, and serving at the pleasure
 52 of, the President of the Senate.

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

55
 56 Appointees shall be representatives of the general public who

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57 represent a broad cross-section of the views and interests of
58 the community and the member organizations of the commission,
59 including educators, clergy, and civic and business leaders;
60 philanthropists; visual, creative, and performing artists;
61 representatives of African-American arts, history, and cultural
62 organizations; and persons having knowledge of, expertise in, or
63 commitment to preserving the state's African-American culture
64 and heritage.

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

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

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

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

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

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

73 (3) TERMS; VACANCIES.--Each appointed member shall serve a
74 term of 4 years and shall be eligible for reappointment. If a
75 position becomes vacant, a successor shall be appointed in the
76 manner of the original appointment for such position.

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

78 (a) The commission shall elect from among its members a
79 chair, a vice chair, and such other officers as the commission
80 deems necessary or expedient in the performance of its duties.
81 Election of officers shall occur at the first meeting of the
82 commission and every 4 years thereafter or sooner if a vacancy
83 occurs.

84 (b) A majority of the total membership shall constitute a

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85 quorum. No vacancy in the membership shall impair the right of a
86 quorum to exercise all of the functions and duties of the
87 commission. All action taken by the commission shall be by
88 majority vote of those members present.

89 (c) The commission shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of
90 its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind its
91 bylaws. The commission shall publish its bylaws in convenient
92 form and shall file with the Department of State a copy of such
93 bylaws and a copy of any amendment to such bylaws.

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

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

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

104 (6) DUTIES.--

105 (a) The commission shall develop a statewide plan for
106 implementation of the initiative. The plan shall be developed to
107 encourage and support participation in development of the plan
108 and in its implementation by all interested groups throughout
109 the state. The commission shall work with representatives from
110 the state's tourism industries, cultural and historical venues,
111 entertainment industry, K-20 educational institutions, local
112 governments, state and federal agencies, and others as necessary

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113 in the preparation and implementation of the plan.

114 (b) The commission shall submit the initial plan to the
115 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
116 House of Representatives no later than January 1, 2009. An
117 updated plan shall be presented no later than January 1 of each
118 succeeding year.

119 (c) The commission shall be responsible for providing such
120 other assistance and advice to the department as may be required
121 from time to time in matters pertaining to the implementation of
122 the Florida African-American Culture and Heritage Initiative,
123 including, but not limited to, activities of the citizen support
124 organization created by this section for the purpose of raising
125 funds and assisting in the development and implementation of the
126 initiative.

127 (7) FLORIDA AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE
128 INITIATIVE.--The Florida African-American Culture and Heritage
129 Initiative shall be an alliance of organizations and
130 institutions that comprise the African-American arts, history,
131 and culture communities in this state for the purposes of the
132 commission. The duties and goals of the initiative shall
133 include, but not be limited to, the following:

134 (a) Promoting understanding and appreciation of the
135 history and artistic and cultural contributions of people of
136 African descent;

137 (b) Providing guidance, support, and resources for new and
138 emerging African-American arts and historical groups and
139 increasing the level of organizational capacity and program
140 administration of established groups;

141 (c) Increasing funding and audiences for local African-
 142 American culture and heritage tourism and enriching African-
 143 American culture and heritage tourism programming;

144 (d) Increasing and attracting corporate sponsorship and
 145 participation in African-American culture and heritage
 146 programming and tourism;

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

150 (f) Investing in future generations of African-American
 151 artists and historians by providing leadership development
 152 activities, apprenticeships, mentorship, scholarships, and
 153 cultural programs;

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

156 (h) Ensuring the financial viability of the initiative
 157 through a network of community partners, advocates, and
 158 supporters, including, but not limited to celebrities,
 159 philanthropists, public officials, state and local leaders, and
 160 corporations.

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

162 (a) Subject to appropriation, the department shall provide
 163 administrative support and consulting services to the commission
 164 for the commission's activities and duties as provided in this
 165 section.

166 (b) The Secretary of State may appoint subcommittees or
 167 advisory committees as requested by the commission, which may
 168 include persons who are not members of the commission. Such

169 persons shall not be entitled to compensation but shall be
 170 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
 171 their duties.

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

176 (d)1. The Division of Historical Resources of the
 177 Department of State may support the establishment of a citizen
 178 support organization pursuant to s. 267.17 to assist the
 179 commission in carrying out the purposes of the commission and in
 180 attaining the goals of the initiative. The citizen support
 181 organization may receive funds from the general public or other
 182 public or private sources for the purpose of funding its
 183 activities and implementing the provisions of this section. In
 184 addition to funds received from the general public or other
 185 public and private sources, the organization may receive funds
 186 from state agencies at such times and in such amounts as may be
 187 appropriated by the Legislature. All funds received by the
 188 citizen support organization other than those necessary to pay
 189 the expenses of the commission shall be used exclusively for the
 190 establishment, support, and promotion of the Florida African-
 191 American Culture and Heritage Initiative.

192 2. Costs to underwrite activities related to the
 193 commission administration and the activities of the commission
 194 to address its purposes outlined in this section may be borne
 195 from revenues raised by the citizen support organization.

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196 (e) The commission shall make recommendations for funding
197 to the Secretary of State, and the department shall include
198 requests for funding for the commission and for the plan in the
199 department's legislative budget request, as the secretary deems
200 appropriate.

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