

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Council on the Social Status of  
 3           Black Men and Boys; amending s. 16.615, F.S.; removing a  
 4           provision that discontinues the council under certain  
 5           conditions; providing an appropriation; providing an  
 6           effective date.

7  
 8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9  
 10           Section 1.   Section 16.615, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 11           read:

12           16.615   Council on the Social Status of Black Men and  
 13           Boys.--

14           (1)   The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys  
 15           is established within the Department of Legal Affairs and shall  
 16           consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

17           (a)   Two members of the Senate who are not members of the  
 18           same political party, appointed by the President of the Senate  
 19           with the advice of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

20           (b)   Two members of the House of Representatives who are  
 21           not members of the same political party, appointed by the  
 22           Speaker of the House of Representatives with the advice of the  
 23           Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

24           (c)   The Secretary of Children and Family Services or his  
 25           or her designee.

26           (d)   The director of the Mental Health Program Office  
 27           within the Department of Children and Family Services or his or  
 28           her designee.

- 29 (e) The State Surgeon General or his or her designee.
- 30 (f) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.
- 31 (g) The Secretary of Corrections or his or her designee.
- 32 (h) The Attorney General or his or her designee.
- 33 (i) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her
- 34 designee.
- 35 (j) The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or
- 36 his or her designee.
- 37 (k) A businessperson who is an African American, as
- 38 defined in s. 760.80(2), ~~of black origin~~ appointed by the
- 39 Governor.
- 40 (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate
- 41 who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state
- 42 government. One of the appointees must be a clinical
- 43 psychologist.
- 44 (m) Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 45 Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or
- 46 employed by state government. One of the appointees must be an
- 47 Africana studies professional.
- 48 (n) The deputy secretary for Medicaid in the Agency for
- 49 Health Care Administration or his or her designee.
- 50 (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her
- 51 designee.
- 52 (2) Each member of the council shall be appointed to a 4-
- 53 year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered
- 54 terms, of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed
- 55 to 2-year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year
- 56 terms. A member of the council may be removed at any time by the

HB 1395

2008

57 member's appointing authority who shall fill the vacancy on the  
58 council.

59 (3) (a) At the first meeting of the council each year, the  
60 members shall elect a chair and a vice chair.

61 (b) A vacancy in the office of chair or vice chair shall  
62 be filled by vote of the remaining members.

63 (4) (a) The council shall make a systematic study of the  
64 conditions affecting black men and boys, including, but not  
65 limited to, homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates,  
66 poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual  
67 income levels, school performance in all grade levels including  
68 postsecondary levels, and health issues.

69 (b) The council shall propose measures to alleviate and  
70 correct the underlying causes of the conditions described in  
71 paragraph (a). These measures may consist of changes to the law  
72 or systematic changes that can be implemented without  
73 legislative action.

74 (c) The council may study other topics suggested by the  
75 Legislature or as directed by the chair of the council.

76 (d) The council shall receive suggestions or comments  
77 pertinent to the applicable issues from members of the  
78 Legislature, governmental agencies, public and private  
79 organizations, and private citizens.

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

82 (6) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at  
83 the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council  
84 members and approved by the Attorney General.

85 (7) Eleven of the members of the council ~~shall~~ constitute  
86 a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
87 present is required for final action.

88 (8)(a) The council shall issue its first annual report by  
89 December 15, 2007, and by December 15 each following year,  
90 stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the  
91 council. The council shall submit the report to the Governor,  
92 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
93 Representatives, and the chairpersons of the standing committees  
94 of jurisdiction in each chamber.

95 (b) The initial report must include the findings of an  
96 investigation into factors causing black-on-black crime from the  
97 perspective of public health related to mental health, other  
98 health issues, cultural disconnection, and cultural identity  
99 trauma.

100 (9) Members of the council shall serve without  
101 compensation. Members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
102 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. State officers  
103 and employees shall be reimbursed from the budget of the agency  
104 through which they serve. Other members may be reimbursed by the  
105 Department of Legal Affairs.

106 (10) The council and any subcommittees it forms are ~~shall~~  
107 ~~be~~ subject to the provisions of chapter 119, related to public  
108 records, and the provisions of chapter 286, related to public  
109 meetings.

110 (11) Each member of the council who is not otherwise  
111 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.  
112 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, must file a

HB 1395

2008

113 disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

114 ~~(12) Notwithstanding subsection (6), the Attorney General~~  
115 ~~shall:~~

116 ~~(a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this act,~~  
117 ~~fix a date for the initial meeting of the council.~~

118 ~~(b) Notify each member of the council of the time, date,~~  
119 ~~and place where the initial meeting will be held.~~

120 ~~(c) Make any other arrangements concerning the initial~~  
121 ~~meeting of the council.~~

122 ~~(d) Serve as the presiding officer at the initial meeting~~  
123 ~~of the council until a chair is elected.~~

124 ~~(13) This section expires July 1, 2012, unless reenacted~~  
125 ~~by the Legislature.~~

126 Section 2. The sum of \$250,000 is appropriated from the  
127 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Legal Affairs for the  
128 purpose of paying administrative expenses necessary for the  
129 Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys to carry out  
130 its responsibilities under s. 16.615, Florida Statutes, during  
131 the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

132 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.