

By Senator Wilson

33-00095-08

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Council on the Social Status of
3 Black Men and Boys; transferring, renumbering, and
4 amending s. 16.615, F.S.; transferring the council from
5 the Department of Legal Affairs to the Department of
6 Children and Family Services; providing an 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
11 transferred, renumbered as section 409.947, Florida Statutes, and
12 amended to read:

13 409.947 ~~16.615~~ Council on the Social Status of Black Men
14 and Boys.--

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

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

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

26 (c) The Secretary of Children and Family Services or his or
27 her designee.

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

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30 designee.

31 (e) The State Surgeon General or his or her designee.

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

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

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

35 (i) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her
36 designee.

37 (j) The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or
38 his or her designee.

39 (k) A businessperson who is an African American, as defined
40 in s. 760.80(2), ~~of black origin~~ appointed by the Governor.

41 (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate
42 who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state
43 government. One of the appointees must be a clinical
44 psychologist.

45 (m) Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of
46 Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or
47 employed by state government. One of the appointees must be an
48 Africana studies professional.

49 (n) The deputy secretary for Medicaid in the Agency for
50 Health Care Administration or his or her designee.

51 (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her
52 designee.

53 (2) Each member of the council shall be appointed to a 4-
54 year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered terms,
55 of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed to 2-
56 year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year terms. A
57 member of the council may be removed at any time by the member's
58 appointing authority who shall fill the vacancy on the council.

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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 be
62 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 legislative
73 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 Department of Children and Family Services ~~Office~~
81 ~~of the Attorney General~~ shall provide staff and administrative
82 support to the council.

83 (6) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at
84 the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council
85 members and approved by the Secretary of Children and Family
86 Services ~~Attorney General~~.

87 (7) Eleven of the members of the council shall constitute a

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88 quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members
89 present is required for final action.

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

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

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

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

112 (11) Each member of the council who is not otherwise
113 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.
114 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, must file a
115 disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

116 ~~(12) Notwithstanding subsection (6), the Attorney General~~

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117 shall:

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

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

122 ~~(c) Make any other arrangements concerning the initial~~
123 ~~meeting of the council.~~

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

126 (12)~~(13)~~ This section expires July 1, 2012, unless
127 reenacted by the Legislature.

128 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.