

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
 4 outdated provisions; removing a provision that
 5 discontinues the council under certain conditions;
 6 providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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 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 Secretary of Health State Surgeon General or his
30 or her designee.

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

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

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

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

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

38 (k) A businessperson who is an African American, as
39 defined in s. 760.80(2), ~~of black origin~~ appointed by the
40 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
55 terms, of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed
56 to 2-year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year

57 terms. A member of the council may be removed at any time by the
58 member's appointing authority who shall fill the vacancy on the
59 council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

81 (5) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff
82 and administrative 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 Attorney General.

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

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

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

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

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

111 (11) Each member of the council who is not otherwise
 112 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.

113 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, must file a
 114 disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

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

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

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

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

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

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

127 Section 2. The sum of \$500,000 is appropriated from the
 128 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Legal Affairs for the
 129 purpose of paying administrative expenses necessary for the
 130 Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys to carry out
 131 its responsibilities under s. 16.615, Florida Statutes, during
 132 the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

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