

By Senator Wilson

33-00467-08

2008546\_\_

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4 outdated provisions; removing a provision that  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:

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 not  
21 members of the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of  
22 the House of Representatives with the advice of the Minority  
23 Leader of the House of Representatives.

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

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

29 (e) The Secretary of Health ~~State Surgeon General~~ or his or

33-00467-08

2008546\_\_

30 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 defined  
39 in s. 760.80(2), ~~of black origin~~ appointed by the 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 terms,  
54 of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed to 2-  
55 year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year terms. A  
56 member of the council may be removed at any time by the member's  
57 appointing authority who shall fill the vacancy on the council.

58 (3) (a) At the first meeting of the council each year, the

33-00467-08

2008546\_\_

59 members shall elect a chair and a vice chair.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

87 (8) (a) The council shall issue its first annual report by

33-00467-08

2008546\_\_

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

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

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

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

109 |       (11) Each member of the council who is not otherwise  
110 | required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.  
111 | 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, must file a  
112 | disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

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

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

33-00467-08

2008546\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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