

By the Committee on Governmental Operations; and Senator Wilson

585-04989B-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; amending s. 16.615, F.S.; removing a
4 provision that discontinues the council under certain
5 conditions; providing an effective date.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 Section 1. Section 16.615, Florida Statutes, is amended to
10 read:

11 16.615 Council on the Social Status of Black Men and
12 Boys.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (i) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her
33 designee.

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

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

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

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

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

48 (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her
49 designee.

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

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

58 (b) A vacancy in the office of chair or vice chair shall be

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59 filled by vote of the remaining members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

85 (8) (a) The council shall issue its first annual report by
86 December 15, 2007, and by December 15 each following year,
87 stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the

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88 council. The council shall submit the report to the Governor, the
89 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
90 Representatives, and the chairpersons of the standing committees
91 of jurisdiction in each chamber.

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

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

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

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

111 ~~(12) Notwithstanding subsection (6), the Attorney General~~
112 ~~shall:~~

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

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

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117 ~~(c) Make any other arrangements concerning the initial~~
118 ~~meeting of the council.~~

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

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

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