

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Black Cultural Tourism
 3 Enhancement Commission; creating the commission within
 4 the Department of State; directing the department to
 5 provide administrative and staff support services for
 6 the commission; providing the powers and duties of the
 7 commission; providing for the appointment of
 8 commission members; providing for the reimbursement of
 9 per diem and travel expenses for commission members;
 10 authorizing the commission to establish or designate a
 11 direct-support organization for specified purposes;
 12 providing an effective date.

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 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 16 Section 1. Black Cultural Tourism Enhancement Commission.-

17 (1) There is created the Black Cultural Tourism
 18 Enhancement Commission. The commission shall be administratively
 19 housed within the Department of State but shall independently
 20 exercise the powers and duties specified in this section. The
 21 department staff shall provide administrative and staff support
 22 services for the commission.

23 (2) The commission shall:

24 (a) Provide financial and technical assistance to
 25 facilities and events in the state that have the potential to
 26 expand tourism, create jobs, and stimulate economic development
 27 in the state through the marketing of the state's black cultural
 28 sites.

29 (b) Provide training and technical assistance for staff of
 30 the state's black cultural sites in order to develop tour guides
 31 and tour operators for the sites.

32 (c) Provide resources and technical assistance for
 33 educators of the state related to the teaching of black history,
 34 promote the state's black cultural sites as historical venues,
 35 and support tourism in the state through student tours of the
 36 sites.

37 (d) Serve as a resource for the Florida Tourism Industry
 38 Marketing Corporation in order to expand cultural tourism in the
 39 state.

40 (3) The commission is composed of the following members:

41 (a) Three members appointed by the Governor.

42 (b) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate.

43 (c) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 44 Representatives.

45 (d) Two members appointed by the Secretary of State.

46 (e) Two members appointed by the Commissioner of
 47 Education.

48 (f) Two members appointed by the Florida Conference of
 49 Black State Legislators.

50 (4) Members of the commission shall serve without
 51 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
 52 travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

53 (5) The commission may establish or designate a direct-
 54 support organization that may receive grants, bequests, and
 55 other resources to support the state's black cultural sites and
 56 the functions of the commission.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.