

HB 595

2014

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.;  
4 providing criteria for removal of a member of the  
5 council; revising the duties of the council;  
6 authorizing the council to identify specified  
7 initiatives and programs, study other topics suggested  
8 by the Legislature or as directed by the chair of the  
9 council, and, subject to legislative appropriations,  
10 use funds appropriated to the Department of Legal  
11 Affairs to perform certain tasks; revising what  
12 constitutes a quorum of the council; authorizing the  
13 council to present its findings and strategic issues  
14 at an annual statewide conference; providing for  
15 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses for  
16 individuals and entities that make presentations to  
17 the council regarding the mission or strategic vision  
18 of the council; providing an effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22 Section 1. Section 16.615, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
23 read:

24 16.615 Council on the Social Status of Black Men and  
25 Boys.—

26 (1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

27 is established within the Department of Legal Affairs and shall  
28 consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

29 (a) Two members of the Senate who are not members of the  
30 same political party, appointed by the President of the Senate  
31 with the advice of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

32 (b) Two members of the House of Representatives who are  
33 not members of the same political party, appointed by the  
34 Speaker of the House of Representatives with the advice of the  
35 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

36 (c) The Secretary of Children and Families ~~Family Services~~  
37 or his or her designee.

38 (d) The director of the Mental Health Program Office  
39 within the Department of Children and Families ~~Family Services~~  
40 or his or her designee.

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

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

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

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

45 (i) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her  
46 designee.

47 (j) The executive director of the Department of Economic  
48 Opportunity or his or her designee.

49 (k) A businessperson who is an African American, as  
50 defined in s. 760.80(2)(a), appointed by the Governor.

51 (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate  
52 who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state

53 government. One of the appointees must be a clinical  
54 psychologist.

55 (m) Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
56 Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or  
57 employed by state government. One of the appointees must be an  
58 Africana studies professional.

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

61 (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her  
62 designee.

63 (2) Each member of the council shall be appointed to a 4-  
64 year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered  
65 terms, of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed  
66 to 2-year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year  
67 terms. A member of the council may be removed at any time by the  
68 member's appointing authority, who shall fill the vacancy on the  
69 council. A member of the council is deemed to have vacated his  
70 or her position on the council and the member's appointing  
71 authority shall fill the vacated position if:

72 (a) The member has three consecutive unexcused absences.  
73 As used in this paragraph, the term "unexcused absence" means  
74 the member's failure to notify the chair that the member will  
75 not be present at a meeting of the council; or

76 (b) The member is absent for at least 50 percent of the  
77 council meetings within a 12-month period.

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

79 members shall elect a chair and a vice chair.

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

82 (4) ~~(a)~~ The council shall:

83 (a) Make a systematic study of the conditions affecting  
84 black men and boys, including, but not limited to, homicide  
85 rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, drug  
86 abuse, death rates, disparate annual income levels, school  
87 performance in all grade levels, including postsecondary levels,  
88 and health issues.

89 ~~(b) The council shall~~ Propose measures to alleviate and  
90 correct the underlying causes of the conditions described in  
91 paragraph (a). These measures may consist of changes to the law  
92 or systematic changes that can be implemented without  
93 legislative action.

94 ~~(c) The council may study other topics suggested by the~~  
95 ~~Legislature or as directed by the chair of the council.~~

96 (c) ~~(d)~~ ~~The council shall~~ Receive suggestions or comments  
97 pertinent to the applicable issues from members of the  
98 Legislature, governmental agencies, public and private  
99 organizations, and private citizens.

100 (d) ~~(e)~~ ~~The council shall~~ Monitor outcomes of the direct-  
101 support organization created pursuant to s. 16.616.

102 (e) ~~(f)~~ ~~The council shall~~ Develop a strategic program and  
103 funding initiative to establish local Councils on the Social  
104 Status of Black Men and Boys.

105 (f) Access data held by any state department or agency,  
 106 which is otherwise a public record.

107 (g) Make requests directly to the Joint Legislative  
 108 Auditing Committee for assistance with the research and  
 109 monitoring of the outcomes provided by the Office of Program  
 110 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

111 (h) Request, through council members who are also  
 112 legislators, research assistance from the Office of Economic and  
 113 Demographic Research within the Legislature.

114 (i) Request information and assistance from the state or  
 115 any political subdivision, municipal corporation, public  
 116 officer, or governmental department thereof.

117 (j) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and  
 118 services from the state, the Federal Government, or any of its  
 119 agencies, or any other public or private source for the purpose  
 120 of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may be  
 121 necessary for carrying out its duties under this section.

122 (k) Work directly with, or request information and  
 123 assistance on issues pertaining to education from, this state's  
 124 historically black colleges and universities.

125 (5) The council may:

126 (a) Identify initiatives and programs that support the  
 127 council's mission and strategic vision.

128 (b) Study other topics suggested by the Legislature or as  
 129 directed by the chair of the council.

130 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, use funds

131 appropriated to the Department of Legal Affairs for the council  
132 to:

133 1. Conduct additional research and studies that support  
134 the council's mission and strategic vision.

135 2. Provide information and assistance in the establishment  
136 of local Councils on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

137 3. Host an annual statewide conference as provided in  
138 paragraph (9) (a).

139 ~~(a) Access data held by any state departments or agencies,~~  
140 ~~which data is otherwise a public record.~~

141 ~~(b) Make requests directly to the Joint Legislative~~  
142 ~~Auditing Committee for assistance with research and monitoring~~  
143 ~~of outcomes by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and~~  
144 ~~Government Accountability.~~

145 ~~(c) Request, through council members who are also~~  
146 ~~legislators, research assistance from the Office of Economic and~~  
147 ~~Demographic Research within the Florida Legislature.~~

148 ~~(d) Request information and assistance from the state or~~  
149 ~~any political subdivision, municipal corporation, public~~  
150 ~~officer, or governmental department thereof.~~

151 ~~(e) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and~~  
152 ~~services from the state, the Federal Government or any of its~~  
153 ~~agencies, or any other public or private source for the purpose~~  
154 ~~of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may be~~  
155 ~~necessary for carrying out its duties under this section.~~

156 ~~(f) Work directly with, or request information and~~

157 ~~assistance on issues pertaining to education from, Florida's~~  
158 ~~historically black colleges and universities.~~

159 (6) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff  
160 and administrative support to the council.

161 (7) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at  
162 the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council  
163 members and approved by the Attorney General.

164 (8) Nine ~~Eleven~~ of the members of the council constitute a  
165 quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
166 present is required for final action.

167 (9) (a) The council shall issue an ~~its first~~ annual report  
168 by ~~December 15, 2007, and by~~ December 15 of each ~~following~~ year,  
169 stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the  
170 council. The council shall submit the report to the Governor,  
171 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
172 Representatives, and the chairs ~~chairpersons~~ of the standing  
173 committees of jurisdiction in each house ~~chamber~~. The council  
174 may also present its findings and its strategic issues regarding  
175 the status of black men and boys at an annual statewide  
176 conference hosted by the council. The strategic issues include  
177 the following:

178 1. Removing the barriers to healthy lifestyles, health  
179 care, and community-based support and prevention services.

180 2. Ensuring a commitment to education and lifelong  
181 learning.

182 3. Addressing the disproportionately high rate of

183 unemployment and unstable economic conditions.

184 4. Addressing crime prevention and criminal justice issues  
185 that adversely and disproportionately affect black men and boys.

186 5. Promoting community awareness, leadership, and  
187 sustainable community and agency partnerships.

188 (b) The initial report must include the findings of an  
189 investigation into factors causing black-on-black crime from the  
190 perspective of public health related to mental health, other  
191 health issues, cultural disconnection, and cultural identity  
192 trauma.

193 (10) Members of the council shall serve without  
194 compensation. Members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
195 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. State officers  
196 and employees shall be reimbursed from the budget of the agency  
197 through which they serve. Other members may be reimbursed by the  
198 Department of Legal Affairs. The council may also reimburse per  
199 diem and travel expenses at the same rate provided for public  
200 employees under s. 112.061 for individuals and entities that  
201 make presentations to the council regarding the council's  
202 mission or strategic vision. These individuals and entities  
203 shall be paid from funds appropriated to the council for that  
204 purpose.

205 (11) The council and any subcommittees it forms are  
206 subject to ~~the provisions of~~ chapter 119, related to public  
207 records, and ~~the provisions of~~ chapter 286, related to public  
208 meetings.



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209           (12) Each member of the council who is not otherwise  
210 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.  
211 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144~~7~~ must file a  
212 disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

213           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.