

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; repealing s. 16.616, F.S., relating to
 19 a requirement that the department establish a direct-
 20 support organization; providing an effective date.

21
 22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23
 24 Section 1. Section 16.615, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 25 read:

26 16.615 Council on the Social Status of Black Men and

27 Boys.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 (i) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her
 48 designee.

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

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

53 (1) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate
 54 who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state
 55 government. One of the appointees must be a clinical
 56 psychologist.

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

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

63 (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her
 64 designee.

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

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

78 (b) The member is absent for at least 50 percent of the

79 council meetings within a 12-month period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

102 ~~(e) The council shall monitor outcomes of the direct-~~
103 ~~support organization created pursuant to s. 16.616.~~

104 (d) ~~(f)~~ ~~The council shall~~ Develop a strategic program and

105 funding initiative to establish local Councils on the Social
 106 Status of Black Men and Boys.

107 (e) Access data held by any state department or agency,
 108 which is otherwise a public record.

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

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

116 (h) Request information and assistance from the state or
 117 any political subdivision, municipal corporation, public
 118 officer, or governmental department thereof.

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

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

127 (5) The council may:

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

130 (b) Study other topics suggested by the Legislature or as

131 directed by the chair of the council.

132 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, use funds
133 appropriated to the Department of Legal Affairs for the council
134 to:

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

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

139 3. Host an annual statewide conference as provided in
140 paragraph (9) (a).

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

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

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

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

153 ~~(e) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and~~
154 ~~services from the state, the Federal Government or any of its~~
155 ~~agencies, or any other public or private source for the purpose~~
156 ~~of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may be~~

157 ~~necessary for carrying out its duties under this section.~~

158 ~~(f) Work directly with, or request information and~~
159 ~~assistance on issues pertaining to education from, Florida's~~
160 ~~historically black colleges and universities.~~

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

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

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

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

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

182 2. Ensuring a commitment to education and lifelong

183 learning.

184 3. Addressing the disproportionately high rate of
 185 unemployment and unstable economic conditions.

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

188 5. Promoting community awareness, leadership, and
 189 sustainable community and agency partnerships.

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

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

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

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209 records, and ~~the provisions of~~ chapter 286, related to public
210 meetings.

211 (12) Each member of the council who is not otherwise
212 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.
213 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144~~7~~ must file a
214 disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

215 Section 2. Section 16.616, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

216 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.