

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; authorizing the
 12 council to present its findings and strategic issues
 13 at an annual statewide conference; providing for
 14 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses for
 15 individuals and entities that make presentations to
 16 the council regarding the mission or strategic vision
 17 of the council; repealing s. 16.616, F.S., relating to
 18 a requirement that the department establish a direct-
 19 support organization; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

52 (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate

53 | who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state
54 | government. One of the appointees must be a clinical
55 | psychologist.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

103 (d) ~~(f)~~ The council shall Develop a strategic program and
104 funding initiative to establish local Councils on the Social

105 Status of Black Men and Boys.

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

108 (f) Request information and assistance from the state or
 109 any political subdivision, municipal corporation, public
 110 officer, or governmental department thereof.

111 (g) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and
 112 services from the state, the Federal Government, or any of its
 113 agencies, or any other public or private source for the purpose
 114 of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may be
 115 necessary for carrying out its duties under this section.

116 (h) Work directly with, or request information and
 117 assistance on issues pertaining to education from, this state's
 118 historically black colleges and universities.

119 (5) The council may:

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

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

124 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, use funds
 125 appropriated to the Department of Legal Affairs for the council
 126 to:

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

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

131 3. Host an annual statewide conference as provided in
132 paragraph (9) (a).

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

135 ~~(b) Make requests directly to the Joint Legislative~~
136 ~~Auditing Committee for assistance with research and monitoring~~
137 ~~of outcomes by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and~~
138 ~~Government Accountability.~~

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

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

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

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

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

155 (7) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at
156 the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council

157 members and approved by the Attorney General.

158 (8) Eleven of the members of the council constitute a
159 quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members
160 present is required for final action.

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

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

174 2. Ensuring a commitment to education and lifelong
175 learning.

176 3. Addressing the disproportionately high rate of
177 unemployment and unstable economic conditions.

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

180 5. Promoting community awareness, leadership, and
181 sustainable community and agency partnerships.

182 (b) The initial report must include the findings of an

183 investigation into factors causing black-on-black crime from the
184 perspective of public health related to mental health, other
185 health issues, cultural disconnection, and cultural identity
186 trauma.

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

199 (11) The council and any subcommittees it forms are
200 subject to ~~the provisions of~~ chapter 119, related to public
201 records, and ~~the provisions of~~ chapter 286, related to public
202 meetings.

203 (12) Each member of the council who is not otherwise
204 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.
205 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144~~7~~, must file a
206 disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

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

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