

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	_____	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	_____	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	_____	(Y/N)
OTHER		

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Government Operations
2 Subcommittee

3 Representative Driskell offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

8 Section 1. (1) The Task Force on Abandoned African-
9 American Cemeteries, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(8),
10 Florida Statutes, is created adjunct to the Department of State
11 for the express purpose of studying the extent to which unmarked
12 or abandoned African-American cemeteries and burial grounds
13 exist throughout the state and developing and recommending
14 strategies for identifying and recording cemeteries and burial
15 grounds while also preserving local history and ensuring dignity
16 and respect for the deceased. Except as otherwise provided in

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17 this section, the task force shall operate in a manner
18 consistent with s. 20.052, Florida Statutes. The department
19 shall provide administrative and staff support relating to the
20 functions of the task force.

21 (2) The task force is composed of the following members:

22 (a) The Secretary of State, or his or her designee, who
23 shall serve as chair.

24 (b) A representative of the Bureau of Archaeological
25 Research of the Division of Historical Resources, appointed by
26 the Secretary of State.

27 (c) One person nominated by the President of the Florida
28 State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement
29 of Colored People and appointed by the Secretary of State.

30 (d) One representative of the Florida Council of Churches,
31 nominated by the executive director of the council and appointed
32 by the Secretary of State.

33 (e) One representative of the Florida African American
34 Heritage Preservation Network, nominated by the executive
35 director of the network and appointed by the Secretary of State.

36 (f) One representative of the Florida Public Archaeology
37 Network, appointed by the Secretary of State.

38 (g) One representative of the cemetery industry, appointed
39 by the Secretary of State.

40 (h) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President
41 of the Senate.

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42 (i) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
43 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

44 (j) One elected official from a local government,
45 appointed by the Secretary of State.

46 (3) The task force shall hold its first meeting by August
47 1, 2021. The task force may meet as many times as it deems
48 necessary to complete the duties prescribed in this section.

49 (4) The task force shall:

50 (a) Review the findings and recommendations made by the
51 Task Force on Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries created
52 pursuant to chapter 98-268, Laws of Florida, and any legislative
53 or administrative action that was taken in response to the task
54 force's findings and recommendations.

55 (b) Examine the adequacy of current practices regarding
56 the preservation of unmarked and abandoned African-American
57 cemeteries and burial grounds and identify any challenges unique
58 to African-American cemeteries and burial grounds.

59 (c) Identify locations of unmarked and abandoned African-
60 American cemeteries and burial grounds throughout the state and
61 propose strategies, including any proposed legislation, for the
62 preservation and evaluation of such sites.

63 (d) Make recommendations regarding standards for the
64 creation, placement, and maintenance of a memorial at any
65 identified locations of unmarked and abandoned African-American
66 cemeteries or burial grounds throughout the state.

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67 (5) By January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a
68 report detailing its findings and recommendations to the
69 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
70 of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the
71 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

72 (6) This section expires March 11, 2022.

73 Section 2. (1)(a) Upon receiving consent of the property
74 owners at the former Zion Cemetery site in Tampa, the Department
75 of State shall partner with the University of South Florida,
76 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and the Zion
77 Cemetery Archaeological Committee formed under the auspices of
78 the Tampa Housing Authority to continue an investigation to
79 determine how many graves remain at the site.

80 (b) Any historical resource, record, archive, artifact,
81 public research, or medical record that is recovered through the
82 course of the investigation by the University of South Florida
83 or the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University shall
84 remain in the custody of either university for archiving and
85 preservation until the Department of State requests custody of
86 such resource, record, archive, artifact, public research, or
87 medical record.

88 (2)(a) The Department of State shall contract with the
89 University of South Florida and Florida Agricultural and
90 Mechanical University for the identification and location of
91 eligible next of kin of those buried at the site.

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92 (b) No later than January 1, 2022, the universities shall
93 provide the Department of State with a list of possible
94 descendants of those buried at the site and, to the extent
95 possible, their contact information.

96 (c) For any identification of next of kin occurring on or
97 after January 1, 2022, the universities must provide contact
98 information of the next of kin to the Department of State.

99 Section 3. The Division of Historical Resources of the
100 Department of State shall ensure that any abandoned African-
101 American cemetery identified by the Task Force on Abandoned
102 African-American Cemeteries is listed in the Florida Master Site
103 File. Upon such a cemetery's listing in the Florida Master Site
104 File and in lieu of the normal application process for
105 historical markers, the division must seek placement of an
106 Official Florida Historical Marker at a site so long as the
107 approval of the owner of the property where the marker will be
108 placed has been obtained. A person or an organization affiliated
109 with an abandoned cemetery may assist the division in
110 researching the history of such a site in the preparation of a
111 historical marker's creation and placement. The costs for the
112 creation and placement of a historical marker authorized
113 pursuant to this section shall be borne by the division.

114 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.
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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:
An act relating to abandoned cemeteries; creating the Task Force on Abandoned African-American Cemeteries; specifying the purpose of the task force; requiring the Department of State to provide administrative and staff support; specifying the composition of the task force; providing meeting requirements; prescribing duties of the task force; requiring the task force to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing for expiration of the task force; requiring the department to partner with specified entities to undertake an investigation of the former Zion Cemetery site; specifying custody of certain historical resources, records, archives, artifacts, research, and medical records; requiring the department to contract with the University of South Florida and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University for the identification and location of eligible next of kin; requiring the universities to provide certain information regarding descendants to the department by a specified date; directing the Division of Historical Resources of the department to ensure the listing of certain cemeteries in the Florida Master Site File; requiring the division to seek placement of historical markers at certain abandoned cemeteries, subject to certain limitations;

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142 authorizing certain persons and organizations to assist the
143 division in researching the history of such cemeteries;
144 specifying that costs associated with the creation and placement
145 of such historical markers be borne by the division; providing
146 an effective date.

147
148 WHEREAS, until the conclusion of the Civil War, millions of
149 African Americans in the United States, including Florida, were
150 enslaved, and

151 WHEREAS, following the end of slavery, African Americans
152 continued to be subject to various discriminatory practices,
153 including restrictions on burying the dead, which resulted in
154 segregated cemeteries and burial grounds, and

155 WHEREAS, unlike predominantly white cemeteries and burial
156 grounds, African-American cemeteries and burial grounds were not
157 subject to regulations and recordkeeping necessary to protect
158 the dignity of the deceased, and

159 WHEREAS, as a result, many abandoned African-American
160 cemeteries and burial grounds have been inadvertently discovered
161 following years of disrepair and neglect when land is being
162 redeveloped or has been sold, and

163 WHEREAS, to this day, abandoned African-American cemeteries
164 and burial grounds throughout this state continue to be
165 uncovered, as evidenced by recent reports regarding the former
166 Zion Cemetery site in the Tampa Heights neighborhood and the

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167 former Ridgewood Cemetery on the grounds of C. Leon King High
168 School, both in the City of Tampa, and

169 WHEREAS, the State of Florida recognizes its obligation to
170 identify and properly record abandoned African-American
171 cemeteries and burial grounds in order to preserve history,
172 better inform development decisions, and ensure dignity and
173 respect for the deceased, NOW, THEREFORE,