

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1679 Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network

SPONSOR(S): McClure, Rayner, and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/CS/SB 592

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 112 Y's 0 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1679 passed the House on March 5, 2024, as CS/CS/SB 592.

The Division of Historical Resources (Division) within the Department of State (DOS) is responsible for preserving and promoting Florida's historical, archaeological, and folk culture resources. The Division is also charged with the protection, preservation, and collection of information about Florida's historic sites, properties, or objects related to Florida's history and culture.

The Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network (FAAHPN) is a professional association organized in 2001 by the John Gilmore Riley Center Museum. FAAHPN serves as an informational and technical assistance resource in response to a growing interest in preserving Florida's African American culture, that of the African Diaspora, and that of other related ethnically diverse historic resources globally.

The bill requires DOS to partner with FAAHPN, subject to appropriation, to preserve the history, culture, and contributions of Florida's black and African-American residents. The bill provides that such preservation efforts must include, but are not limited to:

- Providing funding to support member museums and affiliates.
- Supporting galleries and archives.
- Providing funding in the areas of technology, equipment acquisition, content and exhibit development, fabrication, and installation.
- Preserving documents and artifacts.
- Providing professional and resource development services.
- Providing funding for training and technical assistance.

The bill requires FAAHPN to provide a list of member museums to DOS and requires DOS to independently verify that such museums are a part of FAAHPN. The bill also requires DOS and FAAHPN to determine other eligible expenses as related to the partnership's mission and goals.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on the state or local governments.

The bill was approved by the Governor on April 11, 2024, ch. 2024-75, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Background

Department of State

The Department of State (DOS)¹ is comprised of six divisions: Elections, Historical Resources, Corporations, Library and Information Services, Arts and Culture, and Administration.²

The Secretary of State (Secretary) is the agency head of DOS, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, confirmed by the Senate, and acts as the custodian of state records.³ As the chief administrator of the Division of Historical Resources, Division of Arts and Culture, and Division of Library and Information Services, the Secretary also serves as Florida's Chief Arts and Culture Officer.⁴

Division of Historical Resources

The Division of Historical Resources (Division) is responsible for preserving and promoting Florida's historical, archaeological, and folk culture resources. The Division is also charged with encouraging identification, evaluation, protection, preservation, collection, conservation, and interpretation of information about Florida's historic sites and properties or objects related to Florida's history and culture.⁵ Some of the Division's responsibilities include:

- Developing a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan.
- Directing and conducting a comprehensive statewide survey, and maintaining an inventory, of historic resources.
- Cooperating with governmental agencies, private organizations, and individuals to ensure that historic resources are taken into consideration at all levels of planning and development.
- Providing public information, education, and technical assistance relating to historic preservation programs.
- Taking necessary or appropriate action to locate, acquire, protect, preserve, operate, interpret, and promote historic resources to foster an appreciation of Florida history and culture.⁶

The Division also is responsible for encouraging, promoting, maintaining, and operating Florida history museums, providing support and working to promote the use of resources for educational and cultural purposes.⁷ The Division directly oversees the following museums:

- The Museum of Florida History, which is the state's official history museum and showcases Florida's diverse history from prehistoric times to the present day.⁸
- Mission San Luis, a living history museum showcasing the life of the Apalachee Indians and Spanish settlers and hosting workshops such as pottery and blacksmithing.⁹
- The Knott House Museum, showcasing the history of Tallahassee and its role in the Civil War, including the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation on the steps of the Knott House in 1865.¹⁰

¹ S. 20.10, F.S.

² S. 20.10(2), F.S.

³ S. 20.10(1), F.S.

⁴ S. 15.18, F.S.

⁵ S. 267.031, F.S.

⁶ S. 267.031(5)(a), (b), (d), (f), and (i), F.S.

⁷ S. 267.071(2), F.S.

⁸ See Florida Department of State, *Museum of Florida History*, available at <https://museumoffloridahistory.com/explore/exhibits/> (last visited March 14, 2024).

⁹ See Florida Department of State, *Mission San Luis*, available at <https://missionsanluis.org/learn/> (last visited March 14, 2024).

¹⁰ See Florida Department of State, *About the Knott House*, available at <https://museumoffloridahistory.com/visit/knott-house-museum/about-the-knott-house/> (last visited March 14, 2024).

- The Grove Museum, the mission of which is to preserve and interpret the Call-Collins House, and its surrounding area and historical collections, and to further public dialogue about civil rights and American history.¹¹

Other museums recognized by the state include certain state railroad museums,¹² the Florida Museum of Transportation and History,¹³ the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art,¹⁴ the Ringling Museum of the Circus,¹⁵ the Florida Historic Capitol Museum,¹⁶ the Florida Agricultural Museum,¹⁷ and the Florida Museum of Natural History.¹⁸

Currently, the Division also provides support for the Florida Museum of Black History Task Force (Task Force), including staffing and necessary expenditures. The purpose of the Task Force is to provide recommendations to the Division for the planning, location, construction, operation, and administration of a Florida Museum of Black History to showcase the role of African American participation in defending and preserving Florida and the nation; the history of slavery in Florida; the history of segregation in the state; notable Florida African Americans, including Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune; the history of black colleges and universities in Florida; and the inherent worth and dignity of human life with a focus on preventing genocide.¹⁹

Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network

The Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network (FAAHPN) is a professional association organized in 2001 by the John Gilmore Riley Center Museum.²⁰ FAAHPN serves as an informational and technical assistance resource in response to a growing interest in preserving Florida's African American culture, that of the African Diaspora, and that of other related ethnically diverse historic resources globally.²¹ Working with the Division and Visit Florida,²² FAAHPN produced new editions of *The Florida Black Heritage Trail Guide*²³ in 2005 and 2007 that detailed a microcosm of African American landmarks and legacies existing in various locations throughout the state of Florida.²⁴ FAAHPN also provides technical assistance and training to museum and historic preservation professionals to enhance content with the creation of living history exhibits and other educational products.²⁵

¹¹ See Florida Department of State, *The Gove Museum*, available at <https://thegrovemuseum.com/> (last visited March 14, 2024). The Grove was the home to several generations of the Call and Collins families, including former Governor LeRoy Collins. The Grove Advisory Council advises the division on the operation, maintenance, and preservation of the museum. S. 267.075, F.S.

¹² See s. 15.045, F.S.

¹³ S. 15.046, F.S.

¹⁴ See ss. 265.27, F.S., and 1004.45, F.S.

¹⁵ S. 1004.45, F.S.

¹⁶ S. 272.129, F.S. The Florida Historic Capitol Museum Council provides guidance and support to the museum director and support staff. S. 272.131, F.S.

¹⁷ See s. 570.69, F.S.

¹⁸ S. 1004.56, F.S.

¹⁹ S. 267.0722, F.S.

²⁰ See "John G. Riley Center & Museum," available at <https://www.rileymuseum.org/> (last visited March 14, 2024).

²¹ The Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network, *About FAAHPN*, <http://faahpn.com/about-faahpn/> (last visited March 14, 2024).

²² Visit Florida is the official state tourism marketing corporation. See "About Visit Florida," available at <https://www.visitflorida.com/about-us/> (last visited March 14, 2024).

²³ In order to raise awareness of the state's cultural and historical resources, the Division started the Florida Heritage Trails series in 1991 with the publication of the first edition of the Florida Black Heritage Trail. See Florida Department of State, *Florida Heritage Trails*, available at <https://dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/heritage-trails/> (last visited March 14, 2024).

²⁴ See Florida Department of State, *The Florida Black Heritage Trail*, available at <https://dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/heritage-trails/black-heritage-trail/> (last visited March 14, 2024).

²⁵ The Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network, *supra*, n. 24.

The following chart is the history of funding requests and funding received by FAAHPN from the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year to the current fiscal year:

Spending Category	2017-2018 ²⁶	2018-2019 ²⁷	2019-2020 ²⁸	2020-2021 ²⁹	2021-2022 ³⁰	2022-2023 ³¹	2023-2024 ³²
Salary and Benefits	\$112,000	\$35,000	\$141,400	\$168,150	\$262,000	\$262,000	\$262,000
Expense/ Equipment/ Travel/ Supplies/ Other	\$297,500	\$265,000	\$257,100	\$262,100	\$424,400	\$424,400	\$424,400
Consultants/ Contracted Services/Study	\$40,500	\$175,000	\$76,500	\$69,750	\$113,600	\$113,600	\$113,600
Total							
State Funds Requested	\$450,000	\$475,000	\$475,000	\$500,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000
State Funds Received	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$475,000	\$325,000	\$720,000	\$800,000	\$800,000

Effect of the Bill

The bill requires DOS to partner with FAAHPN, subject to appropriation, to preserve the history, culture, and contributions of Florida’s black and African-American residents. The bill provides that the preservation efforts must include, but are not limited to:

- Providing funding to support member museums and affiliates.
- Supporting galleries and archives.
- Providing funding in the areas of technology, equipment acquisition, content and exhibit development, fabrication, and installation.
- Preserving documents and artifacts.
- Providing professional and resource development services.
- Providing funding for training and technical assistance.

The bill requires FAAHPN to provide a list of member museums to DOS and requires DOS to independently verify that such museums are a part of FAAHPN.

²⁶ The Florida House, *2017 Appropriations Project Bills*, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=projectbills&DocumentType=MemberBudgetRequests&Session=2017&BillNumber=2379&BillId=57497> (last visited March 14, 2024)

²⁷ The Florida House, *2018 Appropriations Project Bills*, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=projectbills&DocumentType=MemberBudgetRequests&Session=2018&BillNumber=2837&BillId=60976> (last visited March 14, 2024)

²⁸ The Florida House, *2019 Appropriations Project Bills*, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=projectbills&DocumentType=MemberBudgetRequests&Session=2019&BillNumber=2049&BillId=63214> (last visited March 14, 2024)

²⁹ The Florida House, *2020 Appropriations Project Bills*, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=projectbills&DocumentType=MemberBudgetRequests&Session=2020&BillNumber=2785&BillId=67486> (last visited March 14, 2024)

³⁰ The Florida House, *2021 Appropriations Project Bills*, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=projectbills&DocumentType=MemberBudgetRequests&Session=2021&BillNumber=2431&BillId=70857> (last visited March 14, 2024)

³¹ The Florida House, *2022 Appropriations Project Bills*, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=projectbills&DocumentType=MemberBudgetRequests&Session=2022&BillNumber=4391&BillId=75141> (last visited March 14, 2024)

³² The Florida House, *2023 Appropriations Project Forms*, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/api/document/apr?sessionId=99&name=0402AR.pdf> (last visited March 14, 2024)

The bill also requires DOS and FAAHPN to determine other eligible expenses as related to the partnership's mission and goals, which may include providing funding for an internship, field training, virtual communication methods to maintain connectivity among the museums, traveling exhibits, and living history presentations.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.