

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Council on the Social Status of
 3 Black Men and Boys; transferring, renumbering, and
 4 amending s. 16.615, F.S.; establishing the council
 5 within the Department of Education, rather than the
 6 Department of Legal Affairs; requiring the Department
 7 of Education, rather than the Office of the Attorney
 8 General, to provide staff and administrative support
 9 to the council; providing that the council's meeting
 10 times are approved by the Commissioner of Education,
 11 rather than the Attorney General; providing that
 12 members of the council may be reimbursed for certain
 13 expenses by the Department of Education, rather than
 14 the Department of Legal Affairs; providing an
 15 effective date.

16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 18

19 **Section 1.** Section 16.615, Florida Statutes, is
 20 transferred, renumbered as section 1001.216, Florida Statutes,
 21 and amended to read:

22 1001.216 ~~16.615~~ Council on the Social Status of Black Men
 23 and Boys.—

24 (1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
 25 is established within the Department of Education ~~Legal Affairs~~

26 | and shall be composed ~~consist~~ of 19 members appointed as
 27 | follows:

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

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

35 | (c) The Secretary of Children and Families, or his or her
 36 | designee.

37 | (d) The director of the Mental Health Program Office
 38 | within the Department of Children and Families, or his or her
 39 | designee.

40 | (e) The State Surgeon General, or his or her designee.

41 | (f) The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

42 | (g) The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.

43 | (h) The Attorney General, or his or her designee.

44 | (i) The Secretary of Management Services, or his or her
 45 | designee.

46 | (j) The Secretary of Commerce, or his or her designee.

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

49 | (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate
 50 | who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state

51 government. One of the appointees must be a clinical
52 psychologist.

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

57 (n) The deputy secretary for Medicaid in the Agency for
58 Health Care Administration, or his or her designee.

59 (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
60 designee.

61 (2) Each member of the council shall be appointed to a 4-
62 year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered
63 terms, of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed
64 to 2-year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year
65 terms. A member of the council may be removed at any time by the
66 member's appointing authority who shall fill the vacancy on the
67 council.

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

70 (b) A vacancy in the office of chair or vice chair must
71 ~~shall~~ be filled by vote of the remaining members.

72 (4) (a) The council shall make a systematic study of the
73 conditions affecting black men and boys, including, but not
74 limited to, homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates,
75 poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual

76 income levels, school performance in all grade levels including
77 postsecondary levels, and health issues.

78 (b) The council shall propose measures to alleviate and
79 correct the underlying causes of the conditions described in
80 paragraph (a). These measures may consist of changes to the law
81 or systematic changes that can be implemented without
82 legislative action.

83 (c) The council may study other topics suggested by the
84 Legislature or as directed by the chair of the council.

85 (d) The council shall receive suggestions or comments
86 pertinent to the applicable issues from members of the
87 Legislature, governmental agencies, public and private
88 organizations, and private citizens.

89 (e) The council shall develop a strategic program and
90 funding initiative to establish local Councils on the Social
91 Status of Black Men and Boys.

92 (5) The council may:

93 (a) Access data held by any state departments or agencies,
94 which data is otherwise a public record.

95 (b) Make requests directly to the Joint Legislative
96 Auditing Committee for assistance with research and monitoring
97 of outcomes by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
98 Government Accountability.

99 (c) Request, through council members who are also
100 legislators, research assistance from the Office of Economic and

101 Demographic Research within the Florida Legislature.

102 (d) Request information and assistance from the state or
 103 any political subdivision, municipal corporation, public
 104 officer, or governmental department thereof.

105 (e) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and
 106 services from the state, the Federal Government or any of its
 107 agencies, or any other public or private source for the purpose
 108 of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may be
 109 necessary for carrying out its duties under this section.

110 (f) Work directly with, or request information and
 111 assistance on issues pertaining to education from, Florida's
 112 historically black colleges and universities.

113 (6) The Department of Education ~~Office of the Attorney~~
 114 ~~General~~ shall provide staff and administrative support to the
 115 council.

116 (7) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at
 117 the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council
 118 members and approved by the Commissioner of Education ~~Attorney~~
 119 ~~General~~.

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

123 (9) The council shall issue its annual report by December
 124 15 each year, stating the findings, conclusions, and
 125 recommendations of the council. The council shall submit the

126 | report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker
127 | of the House of Representatives, and the chairpersons of the
128 | standing committees of jurisdiction in each chamber.

129 | (10) Members of the council shall serve without
130 | compensation. Members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem
131 | and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. State officers
132 | and employees shall be reimbursed from the budget of the agency
133 | through which they serve. Other members may be reimbursed by the
134 | Department of Education ~~Legal Affairs~~.

135 | (11) The council and any subcommittees it forms are
136 | subject to the provisions of chapter 119, related to public
137 | records, and the provisions of chapter 286, related to public
138 | meetings.

139 | (12) Each member of the council who is not otherwise
140 | required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.
141 | 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, must file a
142 | disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

143 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.