

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 Florida Memorial University, rather than the  
6       Department of Legal Affairs; requiring Florida  
7       Memorial University, rather than the Office of  
8       Attorney General, to provide staff and administrative  
9       support to the council; providing that the council's  
10      meeting times are approved by the president of Florida  
11      Memorial University, rather than the Attorney General;  
12      providing that members of the council may be  
13      reimbursed for certain expenses by Florida Memorial  
14      University, rather than the Department of Legal  
15      Affairs; providing an 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 Florida Memorial University ~~the Department~~

~~of Legal Affairs~~ and shall be composed ~~consist~~ of 19 members appointed as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Demographic Research within the Florida Legislature.

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

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

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

(6) Florida Memorial University ~~The Office of the Attorney General~~ shall provide staff and administrative support to the council.

(7) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council members and approved by the president of Florida Memorial University ~~Attorney General~~.

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

(9) The council shall issue its annual report by December 15 each year, stating the findings, conclusions, and 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  
134 | Florida Memorial University ~~the Department of 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.