

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: SB 364

INTRODUCER: Senator Osgood

SUBJECT: Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

DATE: March 14, 2025

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	ED	Pre-meeting
2.			AED	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 364 transfers the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys from the Department of Legal Affairs to the Department of Education. The bill also shifts administrative responsibilities, including staffing support, meeting approvals, and expense reimbursements, from the Attorney General to the Commissioner of Education.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

The 2006 Florida Legislature established the Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys (the council) to study conditions negatively affecting black males in our state.¹ The council is housed within the Department of Legal Affairs in the Office of the Attorney General.²

The council is comprised of 19 appointed members who serve four-year terms.³ These members include representatives of state agencies and the Legislature, as well as citizens who represent relevant areas of interest. The members include:⁴

- 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.

¹ Section 16.615, F.S.; Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, *About the Council*, <https://cssbmb.com/about-the-council/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

² Section 16.615(1), F.S.

³ Section 16.615(1) and (2), F.S. For the purpose of providing staggered terms of the initial appointments, 9 members are appointed to 2-year terms, and 10 members are appointed to 4-year terms. A member of the council may be removed at any time by the member's appointing authority who must fill the vacancy on the council.

⁴ Section 16.615(1), F.S.

- 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.
- The Secretary of Children and Family Services (DCF), or his or her designee.
- The director of the Mental Health Program Office within the DCF, or his or her designee.
- The State Surgeon General, or his or her designee.
- The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.
- The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.
- The Attorney General, or his or her designee.
- The Secretary of Management Services, or his or her designee.
- The Secretary of Commerce, or his or her designee.
- A businessperson who is an African American appointed by the Governor.
- Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state government. One of these appointments must be a clinical physiologist.
- Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state government. One of these appointments must be an Africana studies professional.
- The deputy secretary for Medicaid in the Agency for Health Care Administration, or his or her designee.
- The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her designee.

The council is tasked with conducting a systematic study of the social and economic conditions affecting black men and boys, including, but not limited to:⁵

- Homicide rates;
- Arrest and incarceration rates;
- Poverty;
- Violence;
- Drug use;
- Death rates;
- Disparate annual income levels;
- School performance in all grade levels including postsecondary levels; and
- Health issues.

Based on these findings, the council proposes legislative and nonlegislative measures to alleviate and correct the underlying causes of these conditions. In addition to its mandated studies, the council may explore additional topics at the direction of the Legislature or its chair. It also receives input from legislators, government agencies, advocacy organizations, and private citizens. Furthermore, the council is responsible for developing a strategic program and funding initiative to establish local councils dedicated to addressing these issues at the community level.⁶ Additionally, it is tasked with developing a strategic program and funding initiative for the establishment of local councils.⁷

⁵ Section 16.615(4)(a), F.S.

⁶ Section 16.615(4)(b)-(d), F.S.

⁷ Section 16.615(4)(e), F.S.

The council has statutory authority to access public records from state agencies, request research assistance from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, seek assistance from state or local government entities, and apply for and accept funding from public and private sources to support its work.⁸ It may also collaborate with Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to address education-related issues.⁹

The Office of the Attorney General provides staffing and administrative support and oversees the council's meeting schedule. The council meets quarterly and may hold additional meetings with the approval of the Attorney General.¹⁰ A quorum of 11 members is required for official actions, with a majority vote needed for final decisions.¹¹ The council must submit an annual report by December 15 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the relevant legislative committees outlining its findings and recommendations.¹²

As a public entity, the council and any subcommittees it forms are subject to Florida's public records law and public meetings law, ensuring transparency.¹³ Additionally, members not already required to file a financial disclosure statement must submit a disclosure of financial interests.¹⁴

Council members serve without compensation but are eligible for reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses. State officers and employees receive reimbursement through their respective agencies, while other members may be reimbursed through the Department of Legal Affairs.¹⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 364 transfers the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys from the Department of Legal Affairs to the Department of Education. The bill also shifts administrative responsibilities, including staffing support, meeting approvals, and expense reimbursements, from the Attorney General to the Commissioner of Education.

No substantive changes are made to the council's composition, powers, or duties, aside from shifting oversight to the Department of Education.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

⁸ Section 16.615(5)(a)-(e), F.S.

⁹ Section 16.615(5)(f), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 16.615(6) and (7), F.S.

¹¹ Section 16.615(8), F.S.

¹² Section 16.615(9), F.S.

¹³ Section 16.615(11), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 16.615(12), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 16.615(10), F.S.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Legal Affairs receives \$350,000 for the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. It is anticipated that the Department of Education would need the same amount to implement the provisions of the council.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill repeals section 16.615 of the Florida Statutes.
This bill creates section 1001.216 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill substantially amends section 1001.216 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
