

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator Osgood

581-02505-25

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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 the  
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~~  
26 ~~of Legal Affairs~~ and shall be composed ~~consist~~ of 19 members  
27 appointed as 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

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30 with the advice of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

31 (b) Two members of the House of Representatives who are not  
32 members of the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of  
33 the House of Representatives with the advice of the Minority  
34 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 within  
38 the Department of Children and Families,    or his or her designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

48 (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate  
49 who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state  
50 government. One of the appointees must be a clinical  
51 psychologist.

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

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

58 (o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice,    or his or her

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59 designee.

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

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

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

71 (4) (a) The council shall make a systematic study of the  
72 conditions affecting black men and boys, including, but not  
73 limited to, homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates,  
74 poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual  
75 income levels, school performance in all grade levels including  
76 postsecondary levels, and health issues.

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

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

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

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

91 (5) The council may:

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

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

98 (c) Request, through council members who are also  
99 legislators, research assistance from the Office of Economic and  
100 Demographic Research within the Florida Legislature.

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

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

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

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

115 (7) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at  
116 the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council

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117 members and approved by the president of Florida Memorial  
118 University ~~Attorney General~~.

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

122 (9) The council shall issue its annual report by December  
123 15 each year, stating the findings, conclusions, and  
124 recommendations of the council. The council shall submit the  
125 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker  
126 of the House of Representatives, and the chairpersons of the  
127 standing committees of jurisdiction in each chamber.

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

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

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

141 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.