

By the Committees on Fiscal Policy; and Education Pre-K - 12;
and Senators Osgood and Pizzo

594-03709-25

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 16.615, F.S.; establishing the council within Florida Memorial University, rather than the Department of Legal Affairs; requiring Florida Memorial University, rather than the Office of the Attorney General, to provide staff and administrative support to the council; providing that the council's meeting times are approved by the president of Florida Memorial University, rather than the Attorney General; revising the quorum requirements to reduce the number of members required for a quorum; authorizing members to appear by communications media technology; providing that members who appear by such technology are considered present and may be counted toward the quorum requirement; providing notice requirements for public meetings or workshops conducted by means of communications media technology; providing that members of the council may be reimbursed for certain expenses by Florida Memorial University, rather than the Department of Legal Affairs; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

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30 1001.216 ~~16.615~~ Council on the Social Status of Black Men
31 and Boys.—

32 (1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
33 is established within Florida Memorial University ~~the Department~~
34 ~~of Legal Affairs~~ and shall be composed ~~consist~~ of 19 members
35 appointed as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

56 (l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate
57 who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state
58 government. One of the appointees must be a clinical

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psychologist.

(m) 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 the appointees must be an Africana studies professional.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The council shall propose measures to alleviate and correct the underlying causes of the conditions described in paragraph (a). These measures may consist of changes to the law

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or systematic changes that can be implemented without legislative action.

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

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

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

(5) The council may:

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

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

(c) Request, through council members who are also 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.

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(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) Nine ~~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. Members may appear by communications media technology as defined in s. 120.54(5)(b)2. Members who appear by communications media technology are considered present and may be counted toward the quorum requirement. A notice for a public meeting or workshop must state whether the meeting or workshop will be conducted using communications media technology, how an interested person may participate, and the location of facilities where communications media technology will be available during the meeting or workshop.

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

(10) Members of the council shall serve without

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146 compensation. Members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem
147 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. State officers
148 and employees shall be reimbursed from the budget of the agency
149 through which they serve. Other members may be reimbursed by
150 Florida Memorial University ~~the Department of Legal Affairs~~.

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

154 (12) Each member of the council who is not otherwise
155 required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s.
156 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, must file a
157 disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

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