

By Senator Thompson

12-00378-13

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Black Cultural Tourism  
3           Enhancement Commission; creating the commission within  
4           the Department of State; directing the commission to  
5           independently exercise its powers and duties;  
6           requiring the department to provide administrative and  
7           staff support services to the commission; providing  
8           the powers and duties of the commission; providing for  
9           the appointment of commission members; providing for  
10          the reimbursement of per diem and travel expenses for  
11          commission members; authorizing the commission to  
12          establish or designate a direct-support organization  
13          for specified purposes; providing an effective date.  
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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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17           Section 1. Black Cultural Tourism Enhancement Commission.-

18           (1) There is created the Black Cultural Tourism Enhancement  
19 Commission. The commission shall be administratively housed  
20 within the Department of State but shall independently exercise  
21 the powers and duties specified in this section. The department  
22 staff shall provide administrative and staff support services to  
23 the commission.

24           (2) The commission shall:

25           (a) Provide financial and technical assistance to  
26 facilities and events that have the potential to expand tourism,  
27 create jobs, and stimulate economic development in the state  
28 through the marketing of the state's black cultural sites.

29           (b) Provide training and technical assistance for staff

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30 members of the state's black cultural sites in order to develop  
31 tour guides and tour operators for the sites.

32 (c) Provide resources and technical assistance for  
33 educators of the state related to the teaching of black history,  
34 promote the state's black cultural sites as historical venues,  
35 and support tourism in the state through student tours of the  
36 sites.

37 (d) Serve as a resource for the Florida Tourism Industry  
38 Marketing Corporation in order to expand cultural tourism in the  
39 state.

40 (3) The commission is composed of the following members:

41 (a) Three members appointed by the Governor.

42 (b) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate.

43 (c) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
44 Representatives.

45 (d) Two members appointed by the Secretary of State.

46 (e) Two members appointed by the Commissioner of Education.

47 (f) Two members appointed by the Florida Conference of  
48 Black State Legislators.

49 (4) Members of the commission shall serve without  
50 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and  
51 travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

52 (5) The commission may establish or designate a direct-  
53 support organization that may receive grants, bequests, and  
54 other resources to support the state's black cultural sites and  
55 the functions of the commission.

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.