

Senate Bill 411

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Henson of the 41st and Jones of the 10th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and
2 employees, so as to create the Georgia Commission on African American History and
3 Culture; to provide for duties and objectives; to provide for membership and terms of office;
4 to provide for reporting; to provide for funding; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and employees,
9 is amended by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

10 "CHAPTER 25

11 45-25-1.

12 (a) There is created the Georgia Commission on African American History and Culture
13 (GCAAHC).

14 (b) The GCAAHC shall discover, document, preserve, collect, and promote Georgia's
15 African American heritage with a primary focus on educating the citizens of this state
16 about the significance of the African American experience in Georgia.

17 (c)(1) The primary objectives of the GCAAHC shall be to:

18 (A) Cultivate, present, interpret and promote the history and culture of African
19 Americans in the State of Georgia through museum collections, exhibitions,
20 commemorations, educational programs, publications, research, and public
21 participation;

22 (B) Serve as a clearinghouse for information and insights about African Americans in
23 Georgia and the nation through collaboration with other public, educational, corporate,

24 and Georgia based institutions on strategies for promoting African American history
 25 and culture;

26 (C) Discover, preserve, collect, and catalog African American historical materials and
 27 artifacts and establish, manage, and coordinate museums and other appropriate facilities
 28 for the promotion of African American history and culture; and

29 (D) Disseminate and integrate African American historical and cultural materials into
 30 the mainstream of Georgia life and education as a method of fostering constructive
 31 social change through better racial understanding.

32 (2) The GCAAHC shall provide technical assistance to institutions and groups with
 33 similar objectives.

34 45-25-2.

35 (a) The Georgia Commission on African American History and Culture shall be composed
 36 of 20 members.

37 (b) Said members shall be appointed as follows:

38 (1) On or before August 1, 2018:

39 (A) Two members by the Governor, one member by the Speaker of the House of
 40 Representatives, one member by the President of the Senate, and one member by the
 41 Georgia Legislative Black Caucus shall be appointed to each serve a one-year term;

42 (B) Two members by the Governor, one member by the Speaker of the House of
 43 Representatives, one member by the President of the Senate, and one member by the
 44 Georgia Legislative Black Caucus shall be appointed to each serve a two-year term;

45 (C) Two members by the Governor, one member by the Speaker of the House of
 46 Representatives, one member by the President of the Senate, and one member by the
 47 Georgia Legislative Black Caucus shall be appointed to each serve a three-year term;
 48 and

49 (D) Two members by the Governor, one member by the Speaker of the House of
 50 Representatives, one member by the President of the Senate, and one member by the
 51 Georgia Legislative Black Caucus shall be appointed to each serve a four-year term.

52 (2) Upon the expiration of the individual terms provided for in paragraph (1) of
 53 subsection (b) of this Code section and upon any term expiring thereafter, the respective
 54 appointing authorities shall appoint successors who shall each serve four-year terms.

55 45-25-3.

56 (a) The Governor shall designate one of such appointed members to serve as the
 57 chairperson of the commission at the Governor's pleasure.

58 (b) The chairperson shall call all meetings of the commission.

59 (c) A vice chairperson shall be selected by a majority of sitting commission members.

60 (d) The commission shall meet on a quarterly basis at different locations within the state,
61 particularly in rural areas of this state, interacting with local government officials,
62 educational leaders, health care providers, business leaders, civic groups, and all other
63 citizens who desire to offer input, so as to enable the commission to exercise fully and
64 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of
65 this Code section.

66 45-25-4.

67 On or before December 31, 2019, the commission shall issue a comprehensive report of
68 recommendation for the establishment of the Museum of Georgia African American
69 History and Culture. Such report shall include information on the proposed location of the
70 facility and a comprehensive plan for the implementation of fundraising efforts for
71 construction and for ongoing support of the facility thereafter.

72 45-25-5.

73 (a) Legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided for in
74 Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

75 (b) Members of the commission who are state officials, other than legislative members,
76 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the commission, but
77 they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties
78 as members of the commission in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in
79 their capacities as state officials or employees.

80 (c) Citizen members of the commission shall receive a daily expense allowance in an
81 amount the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official
82 Code of Georgia Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized
83 for state employees.

84 (d) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
85 member of the commission for more than five days. Funds necessary to carry out the
86 provisions of this Code section shall come from appropriated funds; provided, however,
87 that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
88 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
89 available to their respective agencies."

90 **SECTION 2.**

91 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.