

ACT No. 733

HOUSE BILL NO. 876

BY REPRESENTATIVES RICHMOND, ABRAMSON, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, AUBERT, BOBBY BADON, BARROW, BILLIOT, HENRY BURNS, BURRELL, CARTER, CONNICK, DIXON, DOERGE, EDWARDS, FRANKLIN, GALLOT, GISCLAIR, HARDY, HAZEL, HENDERSON, HINES, HONEY, HUTTER, GIROD JACKSON, MICHAEL JACKSON, JOHNSON, ROSALIND JONES, LABRUZZO, LAFONTA, LEGER, MARCHAND, MONTOUCET, MORRELL, NORTON, PEARSON, PETERSON, PONTI, PUGH, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROY, SCHRODER, SIMON, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, PATRICIA SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, TEMPLET, TUCKER, WILLIAMS, AND WOOTON AND SENATOR SHEPHERD

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 36:4(X) and Chapter 18 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
3 to be comprised of R.S. 49:1211 through 1213, relative to the Louisiana Council on
4 the Social Status of Black Men and Boys; to create the council; to provide for the
5 membership of the council; to provide for the powers, duties, and responsibilities of
6 the council; to provide legislative findings; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 36:4(X) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §4. Structure of executive branch of state government

10 * * *

11 X. The Louisiana Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, as
12 provided for in R.S. 49:1211 through 1213, shall be placed within the office of the
13 lieutenant governor and shall exercise its powers, duties, and functions as provided
14 by law.

15 * * *

16 Section 2. Chapter 18 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
17 comprised of R.S. 49:1211 through 1213, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

1 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker
2 of the House of Representatives.

3 (3)(a) A representative of a religious community appointed by the chairman
4 of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

5 (b) A representative of a religious community appointed by the chairman of
6 the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

7 (4) The assistant secretary of the office of mental health within the
8 Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

9 (5) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Social Services who has
10 expertise in the needs of children.

11 (6) The state superintendent of education or his designee who has expertise
12 in early childhood education.

13 (7) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and
14 Corrections who has expertise in reentry or recidivism.

15 (8) The lieutenant governor or his designee.

16 (9) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Labor or his designee.

17 (10) The chairman of the Juvenile Justice Commission.

18 (11) The deputy secretary for the office of youth development, or his
19 designee.

20 C. The lieutenant governor shall appoint five members as provided for in this
21 Subsection. The presidents of Southern University, Grambling State University,
22 Dillard University, Xavier University, and Louisiana State University and
23 Agricultural and Mechanical College shall each submit to the lieutenant governor a
24 list of three nominees. The lieutenant governor shall appoint one member from the
25 list of nominees submitted by the president of each academic institution.

26 D. Ten members shall constitute a quorum, and all actions of the council
27 shall require the affirmative vote of at least ten members.

28 E. The lieutenant governor shall appoint the chairman of the council, and the
29 council shall annually elect a vice chairman from among its members.

1 F. The council shall meet at least quarterly and may meet upon the call of the
2 chairman or any three members.

3 G. All meetings of the council shall be open and subject to the provisions of
4 R.S. 42:4.1 et seq.

5 H. Records of the council shall be public records and subject to the
6 provisions of R.S. 44:1 et seq.

7 I. A vacancy on the council shall be filled in the same manner as the original
8 appointment.

9 J. Appointed members of the council shall serve four-year terms.

10 K. The lieutenant governor shall provide staff and administrative support to
11 the council.

12 §1213. Council; powers and duties

13 A. The council shall:

14 (1) Make a systematic study of the conditions affecting black men and boys,
15 including but not limited to homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty,
16 violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual income levels, school
17 performance in all grade levels, including postsecondary levels, and health issues.

18 (2) The council shall propose recommendations regarding measures to
19 alleviate and correct the underlying causes of the conditions described in Paragraph
20 (1) of this Subsection.

21 (3) The council may study other topics suggested by the legislature or as
22 directed by the chairman of the council.

23 (4) The council shall solicit input, suggestions, or comments pertinent to the
24 applicable issues from members of the legislature, governmental agencies, persons
25 with expertise in early childhood education and development, persons with expertise
26 in elementary and secondary education, persons representing religious communities,
27 and other public and private organizations, and private citizens.

28 B. The council shall issue its first annual report by February 1, 2009, and by
29 January first each following year, stating the findings, conclusions, and
30 recommendations of the council. The council shall submit the report to the governor,

1 lieutenant governor, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of
 2 Representatives, and the chairmen of the committees with appropriate jurisdiction
 3 in the House and Senate.

4 Section 3. The initial report required by R.S. 49:1213 as enacted by this Act shall
 5 include the findings of an investigation into factors causing black-on-black crime from the
 6 perspective of public health related to mental health, other health issues, cultural
 7 disconnection, and cultural identity trauma.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____