

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 2479*

Short Title: African-American Heritage Comm./Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Adams, Womble, Coleman, Wainwright (Primary Sponsors); Bell, Harrison, Jeffus, Jones, Lucas, McAllister, and Mobley.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 26, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 2 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"Part 30. African-American Heritage Commission.

§143B-135. Commission established.

(a) Creation; Duties. – There is created the African-American Heritage Commission in the Department of Cultural Resources to advise and assist the Secretary of Cultural Resources in the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of African-American history, arts, and culture. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To advise the Secretary of Cultural Resources on methods and means of preserving African-American history, arts, and culture.
- (2) To promote public awareness of historic buildings, sites, structures, artwork, and culture associated with North Carolina's African-American heritage through special programs, exhibits, and publications.
- (3) To support African-American heritage education in elementary and secondary schools in coordination with North Carolina Public Schools.
- (4) To build a statewide network of individuals and groups interested in the preservation of African-American history, arts, and culture.
- (5) To develop a program to catalog, preserve, assess, and interpret all aspects of African-American history, arts, and culture.
- (6) To advise the Secretary of Cultural Resources upon any matter the Secretary may refer to it.

1 **(b) Membership; Terms.** – The Commission shall consist of 10 members, each of
2 whom shall serve a three-year term. Three-year terms shall be on a rotating basis, so
3 that no more than four members' terms expire in any given year. Commission members
4 shall be appointed on or before October 31, 2008, as follows:

5 **(1)** The Governor shall appoint all members, one of whom shall be a
6 member of the North Carolina Historical Commission.

7 **(2)** The Governor shall designate a member of the African-American
8 Heritage Commission to serve as chairman at his pleasure.

9 **(3)** Ex officio members shall include the Secretary of Cultural Resources
10 and the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Archives and History, or
11 their designees.

12 **(c) Vacancies.** – In the event a vacancy occurs on the Board prior to the
13 expiration of a member's term, the Governor shall appoint a new Board member to serve
14 the unexpired term.

15 **(d) Removal of Members.** – The Commission may remove any of its members
16 for neglect of duty, incompetence, or unprofessional conduct. A member subject to
17 disciplinary proceedings shall be disqualified from participating in the official business
18 of the Commission until the charges have been resolved.

19 **(e) Meetings; Quorum.** – The Commission shall meet at least semiannually to
20 conduct business. The Commission shall adopt rules governing the calling, holding, and
21 conducting of regular and special meetings. A majority of Commission members shall
22 constitute a quorum."

23 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
24 Department of Cultural Resources the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in
25 recurring funds for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to support the operations of the
26 African-American Heritage Commission, established in Section 1 of this act. The
27 Department of Cultural Resources shall provide necessary clerical and administrative
28 support services to the Commission.

29 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.