

Senate Bill 312

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th and Jones of the 10th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government,  
2 so as to create the Georgia Commission on African-American History and Culture; to  
3 provide for duties and objectives; to provide for membership and terms of office; to provide  
4 for reporting; to provide for funding; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government, is amended  
9 by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

10 "CHAPTER 41

11 50-41-1.

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  
19 African-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 and authenticator for information and insights about  
23 African-Americans in Georgia and the nation through collaboration with other public,

24 educational, corporate, and Georgia based institutions on strategies for promoting  
 25 African-American history and culture;

26 (C) Discover, preserve, collect, and catalog African-American historical materials and  
 27 artifacts and establish, manage, approve, and coordinate museums and other appropriate  
 28 facilities 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 50-41-2.

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, 2020:

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 this  
 53 subsection and upon any term expiring thereafter, the respective appointing authorities  
 54 shall appoint successors who shall each serve four-year terms.

55 50-41-3.

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 50-41-4.

67 On or before December 31, 2021, 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 50-41-5.

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

75 (b) Each member of the commission who is a state official, other than legislative members,  
76 shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that specified in  
77 subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance  
78 authorized for state employees.

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

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

88 **SECTION 2.**

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