

House Bill 937

By: Representatives Mobley of the 58th, Brooks of the 47th, and Mangham of the 62nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 commissions and other agencies, so as to create the African Affairs Commission; to provide
3 for the appointment and terms of members; to provide for officers; to provide for the duties
4 of the commission; to authorize the employment of staff by the commission; to provide for
5 reimbursement of expenses; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commissions
10 and other agencies, is amended by inserting at the end thereof a new Article 9 to read as
11 follows:

12 "ARTICLE 9

13 50-12-150.

14 (a) There is hereby created a commission to be known as the African Affairs Commission.

15 (b) The African Affairs Commission shall consist of 15 members to be appointed as
16 follows:

17 (1) A representative of the Governor's office, to be appointed by the Governor and to
18 serve at the pleasure of the Governor;

19 (2) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on
20 Assignments;

21 (3) One member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House of Representatives;

23 (4) Six members of the general public of direct African origin, to be appointed by the
24 Governor, and six members appointed by the Secretary of State who shall be residents

1 of the state and shall represent the various geographical areas of the state and various
2 African related social, religious, educational, business, and artistic organizations.

3 (c) Legislative members of the commission shall serve during the legislative term in which
4 the appointment is made. At the first meeting of the commission, the members of the
5 general public shall draw lots for terms so that two members will serve for a term of one
6 year; two members will serve for a term of two years; and two members will serve for a
7 term of three years. All successors to these members shall serve for a term of three years.
8 Vacancies in the membership shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the
9 manner as the original appointments were made.

10 (d) The Governor shall designate a chair of the commission from the general public
11 membership.

12 (e) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

13 (f) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but, to the extent
14 moneys are appropriated therefor, shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for mileage
15 and other expenses actually incurred in performance of their duties in accordance with the
16 rates and standards for reimbursement to state employees.

17 50-12-151.

18 The African Affairs Commission shall have the following duties:

19 (1) To promote cultural harmony, understanding, respect, and good will among all
20 citizens;

21 (2) To promote equality for Georgia residents of direct African descent;

22 (3) To promote among the people of Georgia by appropriate activities both awareness
23 and appreciation of African history and culture and advocacy of fair principles;

24 (4) To develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and the General Assembly of
25 appropriate African related celebrations and activities throughout the state relating to the
26 observance of independence days and special celebrations; and

27 (5) To receive donations and contributions from individuals and public and private
28 organizations in order to carry out its responsibilities.

29 50-12-152.

30 The African Affairs Commission may employ such staff and consultants as authorized by
31 law and fix their compensation, duties, authority, and responsibilities."

32 **SECTION 2.**

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