

Senate Bill 312

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

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 provide  
3 for duties and objectives; to provide for membership and terms of office; to provide for  
4 reporting; to provide for funding; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
5 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 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 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 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.