Senate Bill 141

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Butler of the 55th, Jackson of the 2nd, Carter of the 42nd, Davenport of the 44th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of Community Affairs, so as to create the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council; to provide for membership on the council; to provide for terms and duties of members; to provide for an annual report; to provide for the establishment of a not for profit corporation; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of Community Affairs, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 10

50-8-240.

(a) There is created within the Department of Community Affairs the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council.

(b) The council shall consist of nine members as follows:

(1) The commissioner of community affairs or his or her designee;

(2) Six members to be appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be between the ages of 18 and 22 years;

(3) One member to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(4) One member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(c) Members shall serve four-year terms. No member of the council shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

(d) Vacancies in the membership of the council shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term by the appointing authority.

(e) The council shall select annually a chairperson from among its membership.

(f) Members of the council shall be subject to removal from office by the appointing authority when the actions or condition of a member shall be considered as good cause for removal.

(g) A majority of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(h) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but, to the extent moneys are received from voluntary contributions through a not for profit corporation, shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for mileage and other expenses actually incurred in performance of their duties in accordance with the rates and standards for reimbursement of state employees.

50-8-241.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council shall have the following duties:

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

(2) To promote principles of nonviolence, peace, and social justice;

(3) To promote among the people of Georgia, by appropriate activities, both awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.;

(4) To develop, coordinate, and advise the state of appropriate ceremonies and activities relating to the observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., including, without limitation, providing advice and assistance to local governments and private organizations;

(5) To enable the people of Georgia to reflect on the life and teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr., through educational endeavors, cultural performances, exhibitions, and events that are multiethnic and family oriented; and

(6) To prepare an annual report for the Governor and the General Assembly detailing the actions taken to fulfill these responsibilities and duties.

50-8-242.

The Department of Community Affairs is authorized to establish a not for profit corporation and to appoint the members of the board of trustees of such corporation for the purpose of sustaining and furthering the purpose of the council.″

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 3.

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