

**18A:73-25.9 & 18A:73-25.10;Note to 52:16A-90 et al**

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

**LAWS OF:** 2022                      **CHAPTER:** 102

**NJSA:** 18A:73-25.9 & 18A:73-25.10;Note to 52:16A-90 et al  
(Requires New Jersey Historical Commission to establish Black Heritage Trail; permits New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation to use funds for markers on certain trail sites; appropriates \$1 million.)

**BILL NO:** A2677                      (Substituted for S1805 (1R))

**SPONSOR(S)** Antwan L. McClellan and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 2/14/2022

**COMMITTEE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Tourism, Gaming and the Arts

**SENATE:** ---

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**    **ASSEMBLY:** 6/29/2022

**SENATE:** 6/16/2022

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 9/7/2022

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (First Reprint enacted)                      Yes

**A2677**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement)                      Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**    **ASSEMBLY:**                      Yes

**SENATE:**                                      No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                      Yes

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                      No

**S1805 (1R)**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement)                      Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**    **ASSEMBLY:**                      No

**SENATE:**                                      Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                      Yes

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                      No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

Brent Johnson - For South Jersey Times, 'N.J. to create its first Black history trail', South Jersey Times (online), 8 Sep2022  
001

end

§§1,2  
C.18A:73-25.9  
and 18A:73-25.10  
and Note to  
C.52:16A-90  
§4  
Approp.

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 102, *approved September 7, 2022*  
Assembly, No. 2677 (First Reprint)

1 AN ACT establishing a Black Heritage Trail <sup>1</sup>, amending P.L.2005,  
2 c.47,<sup>1</sup> and supplementing chapter 16A of Title 52 of the Revised  
3 Statutes <sup>1</sup>, and making an appropriation<sup>1</sup>.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*  
7

8 1. a. As used in this act:

9 “Black heritage site” or “heritage site” means a location where  
10 items of political, military, artistic, cultural, or social history have  
11 been preserved due to their cultural heritage value to the State. The  
12 locations shall include, but need not be limited to, locations related  
13 to Black educators, journalists, scientists, physicians, lawyers,  
14 artists, or humanitarians who have contributed to the development  
15 or advancement of this State, the United States, or Black  
16 communities throughout the world.

17 “Black Heritage Trail” means a series of Black heritage sites  
18 identified by the division, which may be linked by geographic  
19 proximity and alignment, thematic consistency, and historical  
20 consistency.

21 <sup>1</sup>“Commission” means the New Jersey Historical Commission,  
22 established pursuant to P.L.1967, c. 271 (C.18A:73-22 et seq.).<sup>1</sup>

23 “Director” means the Director of the Division of Travel and  
24 Tourism in the Department of State.

25 “Division” means the Division of Travel and Tourism in the  
26 Department of State.

27 “Historical marker” means a marker, plaque, or tablet  
28 commemorating a historic person, place, or event or identifying a  
29 historic place, structure, or object.

30 b. In addition to the powers and duties of the <sup>1</sup>**[**division as  
31 provided in section 9 of P.L.1977, c.225 (C.34:1A-53), the division  
32 shall, in consultation with the New Jersey Black Cultural and  
33 Heritage Commission, established pursuant to section 3 of  
34 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
35 commission as provided under P.L.1967, c. 271 (C.18A:73-22 et  
36 seq.), the commission shall<sup>1</sup> identify a series of Black heritage sites

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted May 26, 2022.

1 to be part of a New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. The <sup>1</sup>【division】  
2 commission<sup>1</sup> may seek the assistance and cooperation of the New  
3 Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the New Jersey <sup>1</sup>【Historical  
4 Commission】 Division of Travel and Tourism<sup>1</sup>, local government  
5 officials or entities, owners or operators of Black heritage sites, and  
6 entities that identify and compile data on historical trails, sites, or  
7 memorials to aid in effectively carrying out the purposes of this act.  
8 The purpose of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall be to  
9 promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and  
10 culture in the State <sup>1</sup>【through education, public programs, and  
11 historical markers】<sup>1</sup>. The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall  
12 highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-  
13 like path that connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the  
14 State. The <sup>1</sup>【division】 commission<sup>1</sup> shall ensure that as many Black  
15 heritage sites in the State as practical are included in the New  
16 Jersey Black Heritage Trail. In identifying specific Black heritage  
17 sites to be included in the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, special  
18 consideration shall be given to Black heritage sites that are in close  
19 geographic proximity to other Black heritage sites or thematically  
20 linked by surrounding arts, cultural, historical, entertainment, or  
21 other tourism destinations or exhibits of interest to tourists  
22 interested in Black heritage sites <sup>1</sup>and to sites that are recommended  
23 by the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative  
24 Foundation established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.47 (C.52:16A-90 et  
25 seq.)<sup>1</sup>. The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall be inclusive of  
26 all eras as well as be geographically representative of the entire  
27 State.

28 c. The <sup>1</sup>【division】 commission<sup>1</sup> shall:

29 (1) determine and select such sites significant to Black history,  
30 heritage, and culture in this State that the <sup>1</sup>【division】 commission<sup>1</sup>  
31 determines should be a part of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail  
32 <sup>1</sup>【and shall mark each site with a suitable historical marker, unless  
33 the site already has a marker that the division deems suitable】<sup>1</sup>;

34 (2) design <sup>1</sup>and, for sites owned or on property owned by the  
35 State<sup>1</sup>, purchase <sup>1</sup>【,】<sup>1</sup> and erect <sup>1</sup>,<sup>1</sup> historical markers which the  
36 <sup>1</sup>【division】 commission<sup>1</sup> may decide to be appropriate at such sites,  
37 indicating thereon the persons, places, or events commemorated and  
38 having such other suitable inscription as the <sup>1</sup>【division】  
39 commission<sup>1</sup> may deem necessary; and

40 (3) <sup>1</sup>【keep in good repair all】 provide oversight of<sup>1</sup> historical  
41 markers that are a part of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail  
42 erected by <sup>1</sup>【the division】 private entities. A private entity shall not  
43 erect any marker without the approval of the commission, and all such  
44 markers shall comport with the design determined by the  
45 commission<sup>1</sup>.

1 d. All historical markers on the New Jersey Black Heritage  
2 Trail that are erected by the <sup>1</sup>~~["division"]~~ commission<sup>1</sup> shall be the  
3 property of the State. No person, entity, or business shall <sup>1</sup>erect,  
4 receive, retain,<sup>1</sup> possess, transport, alter, or remove a marker without  
5 written <sup>1</sup>~~["authority of an appropriate official of the division. No~~  
6 ~~person, entity, or business shall receive, retain, alter, or dispose of~~  
7 ~~the historical markers without written authorization of an~~  
8 ~~appropriate official of the division"]~~ permission of the appropriate  
9 official of the commission and may do so only in a manner consistent  
10 with any direction therefrom. No person, entity, or business shall  
11 duplicate the historical markers, or create, obtain, sell, distribute, or  
12 install similar markers with an intent to mislead or deceive the public  
13 and shall not create, obtain, sell, distribute, or install any markers  
14 purporting to be the official marker established by the commission.  
15 The New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation  
16 may contact and coordinate with any owner of a private property or  
17 business designated as a Black heritage site to facilitate the  
18 establishment of the marker at the site<sup>1</sup>.

19 e. <sup>1</sup>~~["The division may establish rules or regulations regarding all~~  
20 ~~aspects of the historical markers associated with the New Jersey~~  
21 ~~Black Heritage Trail. Other persons, entities, or businesses shall~~  
22 ~~not duplicate the historical markers, or create, obtain, or install~~  
23 ~~similar markers with an intent to mislead or deceive the public"]~~ The  
24 commission shall accept for consideration, as appropriate, submissions  
25 from the public and from the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage  
26 Initiative Foundation recommending for inclusion on the New Jersey  
27 Black Heritage Trail, heritage sites not owned, operated, or maintained  
28 by a governmental entity through an electronic submission form made  
29 available by the commission on its Internet site.

30 f. The commission may establish any guidelines, rules or  
31 regulations regarding all aspects of the historical markers associated  
32 with the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail.

33 g. The commission shall not use public funds to produce, purchase,  
34 or erect markers or signs on private property bearing the designation  
35 established pursuant to this section. The commission shall have the  
36 authority to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from  
37 private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the  
38 commission for costs associated with reviewing, producing,  
39 purchasing, or erecting any historical marker and entering into  
40 agreements related thereto including, but not limited to, with private  
41 sources, and non-governmental, non-profit, educational, or charitable  
42 entities or institutions<sup>1</sup>.

43

44 2. a. The division shall develop and maintain an Internet site  
45 providing information on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail and  
46 Black heritage sites in the State. The information on the Internet

- 1 site shall <sup>1</sup>be searchable and available as a list and as <sup>1</sup>provide a  
2 downloadable itinerary or<sup>1</sup> an interactive map, and shall:
- 3 (1) specify the location of each heritage site included on the  
4 New Jersey Black Heritage Trail <sup>1</sup>and provide driving directions  
5 from the north, south, east, and west, as well as directions by public  
6 transit where applicable<sup>1</sup>;
- 7 (2) <sup>1</sup>provide information about whether the heritage site offers  
8 guided tours, the frequency of tours, and the hours during which  
9 tours are conducted;
- 10 (3)<sup>1</sup> display photographs of each heritage site;
- 11 <sup>1</sup>[(4)] (3)<sup>1</sup> inform visitors that the heritage site is part of the  
12 New Jersey Black Heritage Trail developed pursuant to section 1 of  
13 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill); and
- 14 <sup>1</sup>[(5)] provide contact information for the owner or operator of  
15 each heritage site, including the telephone number and Internet site  
16 address of the heritage site if one exists <sup>1</sup>(4) provide a link to any  
17 available Internet site address of the heritage site if one exists or  
18 describing or otherwise providing information on the heritage site<sup>1</sup> .
- 19 b. <sup>1</sup>[(The division shall develop and publish on its Internet site  
20 vacation itineraries based on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail  
21 developed pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
22 before the Legislature as this bill), which shall identify for visitors  
23 surrounding attractions, restaurants, lodging, and other exhibits or  
24 places of entertainment in close proximity to the Black heritage  
25 sites on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail.]<sup>1</sup> The division may  
26 solicit information from local government officials or entities, the  
27 owners or operators of Black heritage sites, and entities that identify  
28 and compile data on historical trail, sites, or memorials in the  
29 development of <sup>1</sup>any<sup>1</sup> vacation itineraries. <sup>1</sup>The division may  
30 distribute the information by any other method it deems appropriate.<sup>1</sup>
- 31 c. <sup>1</sup>[(In addition to publishing the information required in  
32 subsections a. and b. of this section, the division may distribute the  
33 information by any other method it deems appropriate.
- 34 d. The division shall accept submissions from the public  
35 recommending, for inclusion on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail,  
36 heritage sites not owned, operated, or maintained by a governmental  
37 entity through an electronic submission form made available by the  
38 division on its Internet site. The division may include heritage sites  
39 not owned, operated, or maintained by a governmental entity on the  
40 New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, as it deems appropriate.
- 41 e.]<sup>1</sup> The director shall ensure that the Internet site is updated  
42 whenever a new Black heritage site is established <sup>1</sup>by the New  
43 Jersey Historical Commission<sup>1</sup>. The division may accept  
44 information or changes to the Internet site from <sup>1</sup>the New Jersey  
45 Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation,<sup>1</sup> the New Jersey  
46 Historic Preservation Office, the New Jersey Historical

1 Commission, local government officials and entities, owners or  
2 operators of heritage sites in the State, entities that identify and  
3 compile data on historical trails, sites, or memorials, or the public  
4 through an electronic submission form made available by the  
5 division on its Internet site.

6  
7 <sup>1</sup>3. a. There is created in, but not of, the Department of State a  
8 commission to be known as the “New Jersey Black Cultural and  
9 Heritage Commission.” The commission shall be independent of  
10 any supervision or control by the Department of State except as  
11 expressly authorized under this act, P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
12 before the Legislature as this bill).

13 b. The commission shall consist of 11 members, of whom:

14 (1) two public members shall be appointed, one each, by the  
15 Governor from persons recommended by the President and Minority  
16 Leader of the Senate;

17 (2) two public members shall be appointed, one each, by the  
18 Governor from persons recommended by the Speaker and Minority  
19 Leader of the General Assembly; and

20 (3) seven public members shall be appointed by the Governor,  
21 of whom one shall serve as chairperson.

22 Members of the commission shall be residents of the State, shall  
23 represent the various geographical areas of the State, and shall be  
24 representatives of Black arts, history, or culture organizations or be  
25 persons having knowledge of, expertise in, or a commitment to the  
26 collection, recordation, and preservation of the history, heritage,  
27 and culture of Black people in New Jersey.

28 c. Members of the commission shall be appointed not later than  
29 60 days after the effective date of this act and shall hold their initial  
30 meeting as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days following  
31 the appointment of a majority of its authorized membership. The  
32 members shall elect one of the members to serve as chairperson and  
33 one of the members to serve as vice-chairperson. The chairperson  
34 may appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the  
35 commission. Members shall serve for a term of two years, except  
36 that six of the initial members appointed by the Governor shall  
37 serve for a term of one year. Members shall be eligible for  
38 reappointment. The members of the commission shall serve until  
39 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the  
40 successor of any incumbent public member shall be calculated from  
41 the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring  
42 other than by expiration of the term shall be filled in the same  
43 manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.  
44 Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but  
45 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
46 performance of their duties.

47 d. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson.  
48 The commission shall hold at least one public hearing each in the

1 north, central, and southern regions of the State annually at such  
2 times and places as the chairperson shall designate. A meeting of  
3 the commission may be called upon the request of six of the  
4 members and six members of the commission shall constitute a  
5 quorum at any meeting thereof. The commission may conduct  
6 business without a quorum, but shall only vote on recommendations  
7 or actions when a quorum is present.

8 e. The Department of State shall provide primary staff support  
9 to the commission. The commission shall be entitled to call upon  
10 any department, office, division, or agency of this State to supply  
11 the commission with any information, personnel, or assistance it  
12 deems necessary for its purposes. Each department, office,  
13 division, or agency of the State shall cooperate with the commission  
14 and furnish it with such information, personnel, or assistance as  
15 may be necessary for the commission to discharge its duties. <sup>1</sup>

16  
17 <sup>1</sup>4. a. The purpose of the New Jersey Black Cultural and  
18 Heritage Commission is to promote awareness and appreciation of  
19 Black history, heritage, and culture in the State through education  
20 and public programs, including the creation of appropriate  
21 memorials at significant locations within the State.

22 b. The New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission  
23 shall:

24 (1) assist the Division of Travel and Tourism in establishing and  
25 maintaining the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail;

26 (2) develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and  
27 Legislature of Statewide activities in recognition of Black history,  
28 heritage, and culture;

29 (3) establish programs designed to educate the residents of the  
30 State about persons, places, or events significant to Black history,  
31 heritage, and culture in New Jersey;

32 (4) meet with other groups and organizations in order to  
33 coordinate events and seek volunteers who are willing to donate  
34 their talents to promote awareness and appreciation of Black  
35 history, heritage, and culture in order to build more inclusive  
36 communities in New Jersey; and

37 (5) apply for grants and receive donations, through fund-raising  
38 activities and contributions, from individuals and public and private  
39 organizations in order to carry out its purpose with regard to the  
40 history, heritage, and culture of Black life and resiliency in New  
41 Jersey.

42 c. The commission shall prepare and submit a report to the  
43 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
44 19.1), the Legislature no later than the 365th day following the  
45 initial meeting of the commission and on or before June 30 of each  
46 year thereafter. The report shall contain information on establishing  
47 and maintaining the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, education and  
48 public programs concerning Black history, heritage, and culture in



1 the State, and any findings, activities, and recommendations for  
2 promoting awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage,  
3 and culture in New Jersey.】<sup>1</sup>

4

5 <sup>1</sup>3. Section 5 of P.L.2005, c.47 (C.52:16A-94) is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 5. All funds received by the foundation, other than those  
8 necessary to pay the expenses of the foundation, shall be used  
9 exclusively for the establishment, support and promotion of the  
10 New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative. The New Jersey  
11 Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative shall be an alliance of  
12 organizations and institutions that comprise the Black arts, history  
13 and culture communities in this State for the purpose of broadening,  
14 deepening and diversifying Statewide participation in and  
15 appreciation for Black arts, history and culture. The duties and  
16 goals of the initiative shall be to:

17 a. promote understanding and appreciation of the history and  
18 artistic and cultural contributions of people of African descent 【.】;

19 b. provide guidance, support and resources for new and  
20 emerging Black arts and historical groups and increase the level of  
21 organizational capacity and program administration of established  
22 groups 【.】;

23 c. increase funding and audiences for local Black culture and  
24 heritage tourism and enrich Black culture and heritage tourism  
25 programming 【.】;

26 d. increase and attract corporate sponsorship and participation  
27 in Black culture and heritage programming and tourism 【.】;

28 e. increase opportunities for young people to learn about and  
29 experience Black arts, history and culture in schools and youth  
30 organizations 【.】;

31 f. invest in future generations of Black artists and historians by  
32 providing leadership development activities, apprenticeships,  
33 mentorships, scholarships and cultural programs 【.】;

34 g. enhance computer and Internet access and usage within the  
35 Black community 【.】;

36 h. ensure the financial viability of the initiative through a  
37 network of community partners, advocates and supporters,  
38 including, but not limited to, celebrities, philanthropists, legislators,  
39 State and local leaders and corporations 【.】;

40 i. provide recommendations to the New Jersey Historical  
41 Commission in the Department of State on Black heritage sites for  
42 inclusion in the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail established  
43 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
44 Legislature as this bill). Funds received by the foundation may be  
45 used to purchase, erect, and maintain historical markers as approved  
46 by the commission, indicating thereon the persons, places, or events

1 commemorated and having such other suitable inscription as the  
2 commission may deem necessary; and

3 j. any other duties and goals deemed appropriate.<sup>1</sup>

4 (cf: P.L.2005, c.47, s.5)

5

6 <sup>1</sup>4. There shall be appropriated from the General Fund to the  
7 Department of State the sum of \$1 million, subject to the approval  
8 of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting, to  
9 establish historical markers, including the markers designated  
10 pursuant to P.L.2009, c.264 (C.18A:73-25.5 et seq.), the markers as  
11 specified in sections 1 and 2 of this act, P.L. , c. (C. )  
12 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and any other markers,  
13 and to otherwise effectuate the purposes of sections 1 and 2 of this  
14 act.<sup>1</sup>

15

16 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

17

18

19

20

21 Requires New Jersey Historical Commission to establish Black  
22 Heritage Trail; permits New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage  
23 Initiative Foundation to use funds for markers on certain trail sites;  
24 appropriates \$1 million.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2677

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANTWAN L. MCCLELLAN**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

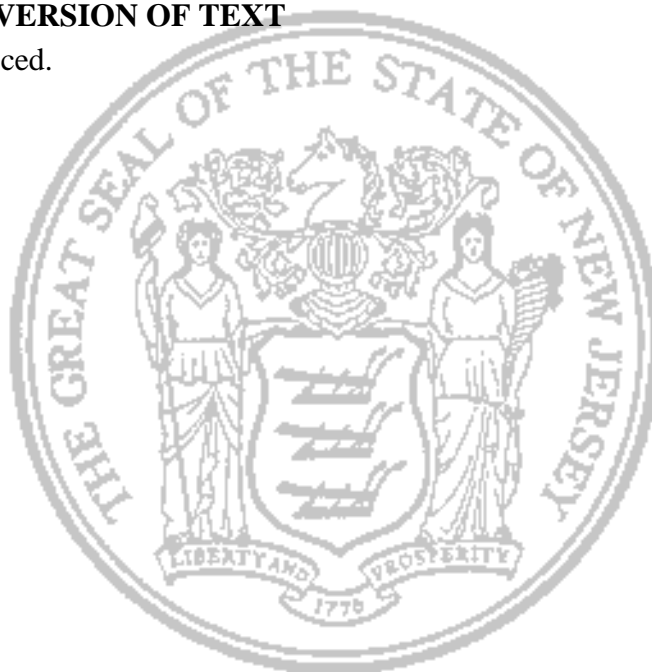
**Assemblywoman Jaffer, Assemblymen Webber, Sampson, Conaway,  
Guardian, Assemblywomen McKnight and Park**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Division of Travel and Tourism establish Black Heritage Trail; establishes NJ Black Cultural and Heritage Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing a Black Heritage Trail and supplementing  
2 chapter 16A of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. As used in this act:

8 “Black heritage site” or “heritage site” means a location where  
9 items of political, military, artistic, cultural, or social history have  
10 been preserved due to their cultural heritage value to the State. The  
11 locations shall include, but need not be limited to, locations related  
12 to Black educators, journalists, scientists, physicians, lawyers,  
13 artists, or humanitarians who have contributed to the development  
14 or advancement of this State, the United States, or Black  
15 communities throughout the world.

16 “Black Heritage Trail” means a series of Black heritage sites  
17 identified by the division, which may be linked by geographic  
18 proximity and alignment, thematic consistency, and historical  
19 consistency.

20 “Director” means the Director of the Division of Travel and  
21 Tourism in the Department of State.

22 “Division” means the Division of Travel and Tourism in the  
23 Department of State.

24 “Historical marker” means a marker, plaque, or tablet  
25 commemorating a historic person, place, or event or identifying a  
26 historic place, structure, or object.

27 b. In addition to the powers and duties of the division as  
28 provided in section 9 of P.L.1977, c.225 (C.34:1A-53), the division  
29 shall, in consultation with the New Jersey Black Cultural and  
30 Heritage Commission, established pursuant to section 3 of  
31 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
32 identify a series of Black heritage sites to be part of a New Jersey  
33 Black Heritage Trail. The division may seek the assistance and  
34 cooperation of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the  
35 New Jersey Historical Commission, local government officials or  
36 entities, owners or operators of Black heritage sites, and entities  
37 that identify and compile data on historical trails, sites, or  
38 memorials to aid in effectively carrying out the purposes of this act.  
39 The purpose of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall be to  
40 promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and  
41 culture in the State through education, public programs, and  
42 historical markers. The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall  
43 highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-  
44 like path that connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the  
45 State. The division shall ensure that as many Black heritage sites in  
46 the State as practical are included in the New Jersey Black Heritage  
47 Trail. In identifying specific Black heritage sites to be included in  
48 the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, special consideration shall be

1 given to Black heritage sites that are in close geographic proximity  
2 to other Black heritage sites or thematically linked by surrounding  
3 arts, cultural, historical, entertainment, or other tourism destinations  
4 or exhibits of interest to tourists interested in Black heritage sites.  
5 The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall be inclusive of all eras  
6 as well as be geographically representative of the entire State.

7 c. The division shall:

8 (1) determine and select such sites significant to Black history,  
9 heritage, and culture in this State that the division determines  
10 should be a part of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail and shall  
11 mark each site with a suitable historical marker, unless the site  
12 already has a marker that the division deems suitable;

13 (2) design , purchase, and erect historical markers which the  
14 division may decide to be appropriate at such sites, indicating  
15 thereon the persons, places, or events commemorated and having  
16 such other suitable inscription as the division may deem necessary;  
17 and

18 (3) keep in good repair all historical markers that are a part of  
19 the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail erected by the division.

20 d. All historical markers on the New Jersey Black Heritage  
21 Trail that are erected by the division shall be the property of the  
22 State. No person, entity, or business shall possess, transport, alter,  
23 or remove a marker without written authority of an appropriate  
24 official of the division. No person, entity, or business shall receive,  
25 retain, alter, or dispose of the historical markers without written  
26 authorization of an appropriate official of the division.

27 e. The division may establish rules or regulations regarding all  
28 aspects of the historical markers associated with the New Jersey  
29 Black Heritage Trail. Other persons, entities, or businesses shall  
30 not duplicate the historical markers, or create, obtain, or install  
31 similar markers with an intent to mislead or deceive the public.

32

33 2. a. The division shall develop and maintain an Internet site  
34 providing information on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail and  
35 Black heritage sites in the State. The information on the Internet  
36 site shall be searchable and available as a list and as an interactive  
37 map, and shall:

38 (1) specify the location of each heritage site included on the  
39 New Jersey Black Heritage Trail and provide driving directions  
40 from the north, south, east, and west, as well as directions by public  
41 transit where applicable;

42 (2) provide information about whether the heritage site offers  
43 guided tours, the frequency of tours, and the hours during which  
44 tours are conducted;

45 (3) display photographs of each heritage site;

46 (4) inform visitors that the heritage site is part of the New Jersey  
47 Black Heritage Trail developed pursuant to section 1 of  
48 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill); and

1 (5) provide contact information for the owner or operator of  
2 each heritage site, including the telephone number and Internet site  
3 address of the heritage site if one exists.

4 b. The division shall develop and publish on its Internet site  
5 vacation itineraries based on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail  
6 developed pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
7 before the Legislature as this bill), which shall identify for visitors  
8 surrounding attractions, restaurants, lodging, and other exhibits or  
9 places of entertainment in close proximity to the Black heritage  
10 sites on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. The division may  
11 solicit information from local government officials or entities, the  
12 owners or operators of Black heritage sites, and entities that identify  
13 and compile data on historical trail, sites, or memorials in the  
14 development of vacation itineraries.

15 c. In addition to publishing the information required in  
16 subsections a. and b. of this section, the division may distribute the  
17 information by any other method it deems appropriate.

18 d. The division shall accept submissions from the public  
19 recommending, for inclusion on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail,  
20 heritage sites not owned, operated, or maintained by a governmental  
21 entity through an electronic submission form made available by the  
22 division on its Internet site. The division may include heritage sites  
23 not owned, operated, or maintained by a governmental entity on the  
24 New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, as it deems appropriate.

25 e. The director shall ensure that the Internet site is updated  
26 whenever a new Black heritage site is established. The division  
27 may accept information or changes to the Internet site from the New  
28 Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the New Jersey Historical  
29 Commission, local government officials and entities, owners or  
30 operators of heritage sites in the State, entities that identify and  
31 compile data on historical trails, sites, or memorials, or the public  
32 through an electronic submission form made available by the  
33 division on its Internet site.

34

35 3. a. There is created in, but not of, the Department of State a  
36 commission to be known as the “New Jersey Black Cultural and  
37 Heritage Commission.” The commission shall be independent of  
38 any supervision or control by the Department of State except as  
39 expressly authorized under this act, P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
40 before the Legislature as this bill).

41 b. The commission shall consist of 11 members, of whom:

42 (1) two public members shall be appointed, one each, by the  
43 Governor from persons recommended by the President and Minority  
44 Leader of the Senate;

45 (2) two public members shall be appointed, one each, by the  
46 Governor from persons recommended by the Speaker and Minority  
47 Leader of the General Assembly; and

1 (3) seven public members shall be appointed by the Governor,  
2 of whom one shall serve as chairperson.

3 Members of the commission shall be residents of the State, shall  
4 represent the various geographical areas of the State, and shall be  
5 representatives of Black arts, history, or culture organizations or be  
6 persons having knowledge of, expertise in, or a commitment to the  
7 collection, recordation, and preservation of the history, heritage,  
8 and culture of Black people in New Jersey.

9 c. Members of the commission shall be appointed not later than  
10 60 days after the effective date of this act and shall hold their initial  
11 meeting as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days following  
12 the appointment of a majority of its authorized membership. The  
13 members shall elect one of the members to serve as chairperson and  
14 one of the members to serve as vice-chairperson. The chairperson  
15 may appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the  
16 commission. Members shall serve for a term of two years, except  
17 that six of the initial members appointed by the Governor shall  
18 serve for a term of one year. Members shall be eligible for  
19 reappointment. The members of the commission shall serve until  
20 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the  
21 successor of any incumbent public member shall be calculated from  
22 the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring  
23 other than by expiration of the term shall be filled in the same  
24 manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.  
25 Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but  
26 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
27 performance of their duties.

28 d. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson.  
29 The commission shall hold at least one public hearing each in the  
30 north, central, and southern regions of the State annually at such  
31 times and places as the chairperson shall designate. A meeting of  
32 the commission may be called upon the request of six of the  
33 members and six members of the commission shall constitute a  
34 quorum at any meeting thereof. The commission may conduct  
35 business without a quorum, but shall only vote on recommendations  
36 or actions when a quorum is present.

37 e. The Department of State shall provide primary staff support  
38 to the commission. The commission shall be entitled to call upon  
39 any department, office, division, or agency of this State to supply  
40 the commission with any information, personnel, or assistance it  
41 deems necessary for its purposes. Each department, office,  
42 division, or agency of the State shall cooperate with the commission  
43 and furnish it with such information, personnel, or assistance as  
44 may be necessary for the commission to discharge its duties.

45

46 4. a. The purpose of the New Jersey Black Cultural and  
47 Heritage Commission is to promote awareness and appreciation of  
48 Black history, heritage, and culture in the State through education

1 and public programs, including the creation of appropriate  
2 memorials at significant locations within the State.

3 b. The New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission  
4 shall:

5 (1) assist the Division of Travel and Tourism in establishing and  
6 maintaining the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail;

7 (2) develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and  
8 Legislature of Statewide activities in recognition of Black history,  
9 heritage, and culture;

10 (3) establish programs designed to educate the residents of the  
11 State about persons, places, or events significant to Black history,  
12 heritage, and culture in New Jersey;

13 (4) meet with other groups and organizations in order to  
14 coordinate events and seek volunteers who are willing to donate  
15 their talents to promote awareness and appreciation of Black  
16 history, heritage, and culture in order to build more inclusive  
17 communities in New Jersey; and

18 (5) apply for grants and receive donations, through fund-raising  
19 activities and contributions, from individuals and public and private  
20 organizations in order to carry out its purpose with regard to the  
21 history, heritage, and culture of Black life and resiliency in New  
22 Jersey.

23 c. The commission shall prepare and submit a report to the  
24 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
25 19.1), the Legislature no later than the 365th day following the  
26 initial meeting of the commission and on or before June 30 of each  
27 year thereafter. The report shall contain information on establishing  
28 and maintaining the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, education and  
29 public programs concerning Black history, heritage, and culture in  
30 the State, and any findings, activities, and recommendations for  
31 promoting awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage,  
32 and culture in New Jersey.

33

34 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

35

36

37

#### STATEMENT

38

39 This bill directs the Division of Travel and Tourism in the  
40 Department of State to identify, in consultation with the New Jersey  
41 Black Cultural and Heritage Commission, established under the bill,  
42 a series of Black heritage sites to be part of a New Jersey Black  
43 Heritage Trail. The purpose of the Black Heritage Trail would be to  
44 promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and  
45 culture in the State through education, public programs, and  
46 historical markers. The Black Heritage Trail would highlight Black  
47 heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that  
48 connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the State.



1 The bill requires that the Black heritage sites along the Black  
2 Heritage Trail be geographically linked by relevant arts, cultural,  
3 historical, entertainment, or other tourism destinations. Under this  
4 bill, the division would develop and maintain an interactive Internet  
5 site providing information concerning Black heritage sites in the  
6 State. The division is required to update the Internet site whenever  
7 local government officials or entities, the owners or operators of  
8 Black heritage sites, or entities that identify and compile data on  
9 historical trails, sites, or memorials notify the division of new Black  
10 heritage sites. The Internet site would also provide vacation  
11 itineraries based on the Black Heritage Trail, which would identify  
12 surrounding attractions, restaurants, lodging, and other exhibits or  
13 places of entertainment along the trail.

14 Under the bill, the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage  
15 Commission is created in, but not of, the Department of State to  
16 promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and  
17 culture in the State through education and public programs  
18 including the creation of appropriate memorials at significant  
19 locations within the State. The commission would consist of 11  
20 members appointed by the Governor. The public members are  
21 required to be residents of the State, represent the various  
22 geographical areas of the State, and be representatives of Black arts,  
23 history, or culture organizations or be persons having knowledge of,  
24 expertise in, or a commitment to the collection, recordation, and  
25 preservation of the history and culture of Black people in New  
26 Jersey.

27 For nearly 400 years, the lives of African people and their  
28 descendants have been a part of New Jersey's history. Black  
29 history, heritage, and culture has long been hidden in the shadows  
30 even though so many Black lives have left an indelible mark on  
31 New Jersey industry, culture, and arts. This bill establishes a  
32 heritage trail and a cultural heritage commission that will connect  
33 the stories of New Jersey's African heritage by documenting and  
34 making visible many of the heritage sites that testify to this rich  
35 history.

ASSEMBLY TOURISM, GAMING AND THE ARTS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2677**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 7, 2022

The Assembly Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2677.

This bill directs the Division of Travel and Tourism in the Department of State to identify, in consultation with the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission, established under the bill, a series of Black heritage sites to be part of a New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. The purpose of the Black Heritage Trail would be to promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and culture in the State through education, public programs, and historical markers. The Black Heritage Trail would highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the State.

The bill requires that the Black heritage sites along the Black Heritage Trail be geographically linked by relevant arts, cultural, historical, entertainment, or other tourism destinations. Under this bill, the division would develop and maintain an interactive Internet site providing information concerning Black heritage sites in the State. The division is required to update the Internet site whenever local government officials or entities, the owners or operators of Black heritage sites, or entities that identify and compile data on historical trails, sites, or memorials notify the division of new Black heritage sites. The Internet site would also provide vacation itineraries based on the Black Heritage Trail, which would identify surrounding attractions, restaurants, lodging, and other exhibits or places of entertainment along the trail.

Under the bill, the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission is created in, but not of, the Department of State to promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and culture in the State through education and public programs including the creation of appropriate memorials at significant locations within the State. The commission would consist of 11 members appointed by the Governor. The public members are required to be residents of the State, represent the various geographical areas of the State, and be representatives of Black arts, history, or culture organizations or be persons having knowledge of, expertise in, or a commitment to the collection, recordation, and

preservation of the history and culture of Black people in New Jersey.

For nearly 400 years, the lives of African people and their descendants have been a part of New Jersey's history. Black history, heritage, and culture has long been hidden in the shadows even though so many Black lives have left an indelible mark on New Jersey industry, culture, and arts. This bill establishes a heritage trail and a cultural heritage commission that will connect the stories of New Jersey's African heritage by documenting and making visible many of the heritage sites that testify to this rich history.

**STATEMENT TO**  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2677**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator SINGLETON)

ADOPTED: MAY 26, 2022

These Senate amendments:

(1) delete the creation of a “New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission” and provide, instead, for the New Jersey Historical Commission to identify the Black heritage sites and create the Black Heritage Trail required by the bill;

(2) prohibit the use of public funds to produce, purchase, or erect markers or signs on private property, but allow the commission to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the commission for costs associated with reviewing, producing, purchasing, or erecting any historical marker and entering into agreements related thereto including, but not limited to, with private sources, and non-governmental, non-profit, educational, or charitable entities or institutions;

(3) allow the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation to use funds to purchase, erect, and maintain historical markers as approved by the New Jersey Historical Commission, indicating thereon the persons, places, or events commemorated and having such other suitable inscription as the commission may deem necessary;

(4) revise and clarify the provisions concerning the Internet site providing information on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail to be established by the Division of Travel and Tourism in the Department of State, and remove the requirements to provide driving directions, tour information, owner contact information, and certain itineraries on that Internet site; and

(5) appropriate \$1 million to the Department of State for the purposes of establishing historical markers by the New Jersey Historical Commission required under current law and under the bill, and to fund any other markers, and to otherwise effectuate the purposes of the bill.

# SENATE, No. 1805

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Turner and Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Division of Travel and Tourism establish Black Heritage Trail; establishes NJ Black Cultural and Heritage Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2022)**

1 AN ACT establishing a Black Heritage Trail and supplementing  
2 chapter 16A of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. As used in this act:

8 “Black heritage site” or “heritage site” means a location where  
9 items of political, military, artistic, cultural, or social history have  
10 been preserved due to their cultural heritage value to the State. The  
11 locations shall include, but need not be limited to, locations related  
12 to Black educators, journalists, scientists, physicians, lawyers,  
13 artists, or humanitarians who have contributed to the development  
14 or advancement of this State, the United States, or Black  
15 communities throughout the world.

16 “Black Heritage Trail” means a series of Black heritage sites  
17 identified by the division, which may be linked by geographic  
18 proximity and alignment, thematic consistency, and historical  
19 consistency.

20 “Director” means the Director of the Division of Travel and  
21 Tourism in the Department of State.

22 “Division” means the Division of Travel and Tourism in the  
23 Department of State.

24 “Historical marker” means a marker, plaque, or tablet  
25 commemorating a historic person, place, or event or identifying a  
26 historic place, structure, or object.

27 b. In addition to the powers and duties of the division as  
28 provided in section 9 of P.L.1977, c.225 (C.34:1A-53), the division  
29 shall, in consultation with the New Jersey Black Cultural and  
30 Heritage Commission, established pursuant to section 3 of  
31 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
32 identify a series of Black heritage sites to be part of a New Jersey  
33 Black Heritage Trail. The division may seek the assistance and  
34 cooperation of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the  
35 New Jersey Historical Commission, local government officials or  
36 entities, owners or operators of Black heritage sites, and entities  
37 that identify and compile data on historical trails, sites, or  
38 memorials to aid in effectively carrying out the purposes of this act.  
39 The purpose of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall be to  
40 promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and  
41 culture in the State through education, public programs, and  
42 historical markers. The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall  
43 highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-  
44 like path that connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the  
45 State. The division shall ensure that as many Black heritage sites in  
46 the State as practical are included in the New Jersey Black Heritage  
47 Trail. In identifying specific Black heritage sites to be included in  
48 the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, special consideration shall be

1 given to Black heritage sites that are in close geographic proximity  
2 to other Black heritage sites or thematically linked by surrounding  
3 arts, cultural, historical, entertainment, or other tourism destinations  
4 or exhibits of interest to tourists interested in Black heritage sites.  
5 The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail shall be inclusive of all eras  
6 as well as be geographically representative of the entire State.

7 c. The division shall:

8 (1) determine and select such sites significant to Black history,  
9 heritage, and culture in this State that the division determines  
10 should be a part of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail and shall  
11 mark each site with a suitable historical marker, unless the site  
12 already has a marker that the division deems suitable;

13 (2) design , purchase, and erect historical markers which the  
14 division may decide to be appropriate at such sites, indicating  
15 thereon the persons, places, or events commemorated and having  
16 such other suitable inscription as the division may deem necessary;  
17 and

18 (3) keep in good repair all historical markers that are a part of  
19 the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail erected by the division.

20 d. All historical markers on the New Jersey Black Heritage  
21 Trail that are erected by the division shall be the property of the  
22 State. No person, entity, or business shall possess, transport, alter,  
23 or remove a marker without written authority of an appropriate  
24 official of the division. No person, entity, or business shall receive,  
25 retain, alter, or dispose of the historical markers without written  
26 authorization of an appropriate official of the division.

27 e. The division may establish rules or regulations regarding all  
28 aspects of the historical markers associated with the New Jersey  
29 Black Heritage Trail. Other persons, entities, or businesses shall  
30 not duplicate the historical markers, or create, obtain, or install  
31 similar markers with an intent to mislead or deceive the public.

32

33 2. a. The division shall develop and maintain an Internet site  
34 providing information on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail and  
35 Black heritage sites in the State. The information on the Internet  
36 site shall be searchable and available as a list and as an interactive  
37 map, and shall:

38 (1) specify the location of each heritage site included on the  
39 New Jersey Black Heritage Trail and provide driving directions  
40 from the north, south, east, and west, as well as directions by public  
41 transit where applicable;

42 (2) provide information about whether the heritage site offers  
43 guided tours, the frequency of tours, and the hours during which  
44 tours are conducted;

45 (3) display photographs of each heritage site;

46 (4) inform visitors that the heritage site is part of the New Jersey  
47 Black Heritage Trail developed pursuant to section 1 of  
48 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill); and

S1805 SINGLETON, TESTA

4

1 (5) provide contact information for the owner or operator of  
2 each heritage site, including the telephone number and Internet site  
3 address of the heritage site if one exists.

4 b. The division shall develop and publish on its Internet site  
5 vacation itineraries based on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail  
6 developed pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
7 before the Legislature as this bill), which shall identify for visitors  
8 surrounding attractions, restaurants, lodging, and other exhibits or  
9 places of entertainment in close proximity to the Black heritage  
10 sites on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. The division may  
11 solicit information from local government officials or entities, the  
12 owners or operators of Black heritage sites, and entities that identify  
13 and compile data on historical trail, sites, or memorials in the  
14 development of vacation itineraries.

15 c. In addition to publishing the information required in  
16 subsections a. and b. of this section, the division may distribute the  
17 information by any other method it deems appropriate.

18 d. The division shall accept submissions from the public  
19 recommending, for inclusion on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail,  
20 heritage sites not owned, operated, or maintained by a governmental  
21 entity through an electronic submission form made available by the  
22 division on its Internet site. The division may include heritage sites  
23 not owned, operated, or maintained by a governmental entity on the  
24 New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, as it deems appropriate.

25 e. The director shall ensure that the Internet site is updated  
26 whenever a new Black heritage site is established. The division  
27 may accept information or changes to the Internet site from the New  
28 Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the New Jersey Historical  
29 Commission, local government officials and entities, owners or  
30 operators of heritage sites in the State, entities that identify and  
31 compile data on historical trails, sites, or memorials, or the public  
32 through an electronic submission form made available by the  
33 division on its Internet site.

34

35 3. a. There is created in, but not of, the Department of State a  
36 commission to be known as the "New Jersey Black Cultural and  
37 Heritage Commission." The commission shall be independent of  
38 any supervision or control by the Department of State except as  
39 expressly authorized under this act, P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
40 before the Legislature as this bill).

41 b. The commission shall consist of 11 members, of whom:

42 (1) two public members shall be appointed, one each, by the  
43 Governor from persons recommended by the President and Minority  
44 Leader of the Senate;

45 (2) two public members shall be appointed, one each, by the  
46 Governor from persons recommended by the Speaker and Minority  
47 Leader of the General Assembly; and



1 (3) seven public members shall be appointed by the Governor,  
2 of whom one shall serve as chairperson.

3 Members of the commission shall be residents of the State, shall  
4 represent the various geographical areas of the State, and shall be  
5 representatives of Black arts, history, or culture organizations or be  
6 persons having knowledge of, expertise in, or a commitment to the  
7 collection, recordation, and preservation of the history, heritage,  
8 and culture of Black people in New Jersey.

9 c. Members of the commission shall be appointed not later than  
10 60 days after the effective date of this act and shall hold their initial  
11 meeting as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days following  
12 the appointment of a majority of its authorized membership. The  
13 members shall elect one of the members to serve as chairperson and  
14 one of the members to serve as vice-chairperson. The chairperson  
15 may appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the  
16 commission. Members shall serve for a term of two years, except  
17 that six of the initial members appointed by the Governor shall  
18 serve for a term of one year. Members shall be eligible for  
19 reappointment. The members of the commission shall serve until  
20 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the  
21 successor of any incumbent public member shall be calculated from  
22 the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring  
23 other than by expiration of the term shall be filled in the same  
24 manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.  
25 Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but  
26 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
27 performance of their duties.

28 d. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson.  
29 The commission shall hold at least one public hearing each in the  
30 north, central, and southern regions of the State annually at such  
31 times and places as the chairperson shall designate. A meeting of  
32 the commission may be called upon the request of six of the  
33 members and six members of the commission shall constitute a  
34 quorum at any meeting thereof. The commission may conduct  
35 business without a quorum, but shall only vote on recommendations  
36 or actions when a quorum is present.

37 e. The Department of State shall provide primary staff support  
38 to the commission. The commission shall be entitled to call upon  
39 any department, office, division, or agency of this State to supply  
40 the commission with any information, personnel, or assistance it  
41 deems necessary for its purposes. Each department, office,  
42 division, or agency of the State shall cooperate with the commission  
43 and furnish it with such information, personnel, or assistance as  
44 may be necessary for the commission to discharge its duties.

45

46 4. a. The purpose of the New Jersey Black Cultural and  
47 Heritage Commission is to promote awareness and appreciation of  
48 Black history, heritage, and culture in the State through education

1 and public programs, including the creation of appropriate  
2 memorials at significant locations within the State.

3 b. The New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission  
4 shall:

5 (1) assist the Division of Travel and Tourism in establishing and  
6 maintaining the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail;

7 (2) develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and  
8 Legislature of Statewide activities in recognition of Black history,  
9 heritage, and culture;

10 (3) establish programs designed to educate the residents of the  
11 State about persons, places, or events significant to Black history,  
12 heritage, and culture in New Jersey;

13 (4) meet with other groups and organizations in order to  
14 coordinate events and seek volunteers who are willing to donate  
15 their talents to promote awareness and appreciation of Black  
16 history, heritage, and culture in order to build more inclusive  
17 communities in New Jersey; and

18 (5) apply for grants and receive donations, through fund-raising  
19 activities and contributions, from individuals and public and private  
20 organizations in order to carry out its purpose with regard to the  
21 history, heritage, and culture of Black life and resiliency in New  
22 Jersey.

23 c. The commission shall prepare and submit a report to the  
24 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
25 19.1), the Legislature no later than the 365th day following the  
26 initial meeting of the commission and on or before June 30 of each  
27 year thereafter. The report shall contain information on establishing  
28 and maintaining the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, education and  
29 public programs concerning Black history, heritage, and culture in  
30 the State, and any findings, activities, and recommendations for  
31 promoting awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage,  
32 and culture in New Jersey.

33

34 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

35

36

37

#### STATEMENT

38

39 This bill directs the Division of Travel and Tourism in the  
40 Department of State to identify, in consultation with the New Jersey  
41 Black Cultural and Heritage Commission, established under the bill,  
42 a series of Black heritage sites to be part of a New Jersey Black  
43 Heritage Trail. The purpose of the Black Heritage Trail would be to  
44 promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and  
45 culture in the State through education, public programs, and  
46 historical markers. The Black Heritage Trail would highlight Black  
47 heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that  
48 connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the State.

1       The bill requires that the Black heritage sites along the Black  
2 Heritage Trail be geographically linked by relevant arts, cultural,  
3 historical, entertainment, or other tourism destinations. Under this  
4 bill, the division would develop and maintain an interactive Internet  
5 site providing information concerning Black heritage sites in the  
6 State. The division is required to update the Internet site whenever  
7 local government officials or entities, the owners or operators of  
8 Black heritage sites, or entities that identify and compile data on  
9 historical trails, sites, or memorials notify the division of new Black  
10 heritage sites. The Internet site would also provide vacation  
11 itineraries based on the Black Heritage Trail, which would identify  
12 surrounding attractions, restaurants, lodging, and other exhibits or  
13 places of entertainment along the trail.

14       Under the bill, the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage  
15 Commission is created in, but not of, the Department of State to  
16 promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and  
17 culture in the State through education and public programs  
18 including the creation of appropriate memorials at significant  
19 locations within the State. The commission would consist of 11  
20 members appointed by the Governor. The public members are  
21 required to be residents of the State, represent the various  
22 geographical areas of the State, and be representatives of Black arts,  
23 history, or culture organizations or be persons having knowledge of,  
24 expertise in, or a commitment to the collection, recordation, and  
25 preservation of the history and culture of Black people in New  
26 Jersey.

27       For nearly 400 years, the lives of African people and their  
28 descendants have been a part of New Jersey's history. Black  
29 history, heritage, and culture has long been hidden in the shadows  
30 even though so many Black lives have left an indelible mark on  
31 New Jersey industry, culture, and arts. This bill establishes a  
32 heritage trail and a cultural heritage commission that will connect  
33 the stories of New Jersey's African heritage by documenting and  
34 making visible many of the heritage sites that testify to this rich  
35 history.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
SENATE, No. 1805

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 24, 2022

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1805.

This bill directs the Division of Travel and Tourism in the Department of State to identify, in consultation with the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission, established under the bill, a series of Black heritage sites to be part of a New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. The purpose of the Black Heritage Trail would be to promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and culture in the State through education, public programs, and historical markers. The Black Heritage Trail would highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the State.

The bill requires that the Black heritage sites along the Black Heritage Trail be geographically linked by relevant arts, cultural, historical, entertainment, or other tourism destinations. Under this bill, the division would develop and maintain an interactive Internet site providing information concerning Black heritage sites in the State. The division is required to update the Internet site whenever local government officials or entities, the owners or operators of Black heritage sites, or entities that identify and compile data on historical trails, sites, or memorials notify the division of new Black heritage sites. The Internet site would also provide vacation itineraries based on the Black Heritage Trail, which would identify surrounding attractions, restaurants, lodging, and other exhibits or places of entertainment along the trail.

Under the bill, the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission is created in, but not of, the Department of State to promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and culture in the State through education and public programs including the creation of appropriate memorials at significant locations within the State. The commission would consist of 11 members appointed by the Governor. The public members are required to be residents of the State, represent the various geographical areas of the State, and be representatives of Black arts, history, or culture organizations or be persons having knowledge of, expertise in, or a commitment to the collection, recordation, and

preservation of the history and culture of Black people in New Jersey.

For nearly 400 years, the lives of African people and their descendants have been a part of New Jersey's history. Black history, heritage, and culture has long been hidden in the shadows even though so many Black lives have left an indelible mark on New Jersey industry, culture, and arts. This bill establishes a heritage trail and a cultural heritage commission that will connect the stories of New Jersey's African heritage by documenting and making visible many of the heritage sites that testify to this rich history.

**STATEMENT TO**  
**SENATE, No. 1805**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator SINGLETON)

ADOPTED: MAY 26, 2022

These Senate amendments:

(1) delete the creation of a “New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Commission” and provide, instead, for the New Jersey Historical Commission to identify the Black heritage sites and create the Black Heritage Trail required by the bill;

(2) prohibit the use of public funds to produce, purchase, or erect markers or signs on private property, but allow the commission to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the commission for costs associated with reviewing, producing, purchasing, or erecting any historical marker and entering into agreements related thereto including, but not limited to, with private sources, and non-governmental, non-profit, educational, or charitable entities or institutions;

(3) allow the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation to use funds to purchase, erect, and maintain historical markers as approved by the New Jersey Historical Commission, indicating thereon the persons, places, or events commemorated and having such other suitable inscription as the commission may deem necessary;

(4) revise and clarify the provisions concerning the Internet site providing information on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail to be established by the Division of Travel and Tourism in the Department of State, and remove the requirements to provide driving directions, tour information, owner contact information, and certain itineraries on that Internet site; and

(5) appropriate \$1 million to the Department of State for the purposes of establishing historical markers by the New Jersey Historical Commission required under current law and under the bill, and to fund any other markers, and to otherwise effectuate the purposes of the bill.

# This Week in NJ - September 9, 2022

09/9/2022



## Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Combat Food Insecurity Among New Jersey Students

Governor Phil Murphy signed two bills that will help combat food insecurity among students across the state. The first bill, A2368/S1677, which was sponsored by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, requires New Jersey schools to provide free breakfasts and lunches to students from working-class and middle-income families. The second bill, A2365/S1928, requires school food authorities to engage in public education campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents about existing and expanding school meals program options. Together, the laws will help ensure equitable access to resources that simultaneously benefit children's nutrition and support work families' financial stability.

"Consistent access to healthy meals is a fundamental human right, a fact that became all too clear for New Jersey families as they struggled to make ends meet amid a global pandemic," **said Governor Murphy**. "We've fought hard alongside our students' parents to provide our children with the tools they need to grow and excel, and today we demonstrate our intent to double those efforts in the battle against food insecurity. Crucially, by launching extensive public awareness campaigns, we will work to ensure that free, nutritious meals are not only available, but easily accessible, for every New Jersey student.

[READ MORE](#)

## Governor Murphy and DOE Announce Over \$26 Million to Expand High-Quality Preschool in 27 School Districts

Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) announced that 27 school districts will receive Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) to establish or expand access to high-quality preschool programs in the 2022-2023 school year. The over \$26 million, which was allocated in the FY2023 Budget, ensures that nearly 2,150 additional three- and four-year-old children will have access to a preschool classroom by increasing New Jersey's preschool seats to nearly 70,000. This announcement builds on Governor Murphy's long-term commitment to early education and the eventual goal of providing universal preschool to every three- and four-year-old in New Jersey.

"We know that providing children with access to preschool programs creates short and long term educational and economic benefits for families," said **Governor Phil Murphy**. "When we invest in preschool education, we also invest in our youth and in the future success of the State of New Jersey for decades to come. Today's announcement is another step toward universal preschool and a brighter future for New Jersey's youngest learners."

"I am excited to work with the 27 school districts receiving this funding to create and expand their community's preschool programs," said **Dr. Angelica Allen McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education**. "Governor Murphy's continued budget allowance for high-quality preschool allows many young children an opportunity to attend preschool and reap the benefits of starting school earlier."



[READ MORE](#)



## Governor Murphy Signs Bipartisan Bill Establishing Black Heritage Trail in New Jersey

In a room at the historic City of Newark's Public Library, surrounded by state and local officials, as well as activists, Governor Phil Murphy signed bipartisan bill A2677. The bill requires the New Jersey Historical Commission to establish a Black Heritage Trail to promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and culture in the State. The Black Heritage Trail will highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the State.



"I am honored to sign this bill, establishing a Black Heritage Trail in New Jersey. However, our work does not stop here," **said Governor Murphy.** "Celebrating and commemorating Black history is not something that we should relegate to only the month of February or to Juneteenth. Black history is New Jersey history. It must be honored every day of the year."

In January 2021, the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism within the Department of State launched the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, which invites visitors and residents to "discover the remarkable achievements and legacies of New Jersey's African American scholars, famous figures and everyday citizens who shaped the State's history for nearly four centuries." The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail will highlight landmarks, heritage sites, museums and modern-day attractions, which will be featured on downloadable three-day trip itineraries and map views. Under the bill, which appropriates \$ 1 million to the Department of State to establish the historical markers, the Historical Commission must give special consideration to sites that are in close geographic proximity, thematically linked by surrounding arts and other tourism destinations, or recommended by the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation.

[READ MORE](#)

## New Jersey Students Enter First School Year With K-12 Climate Change Education

In June of 2020 First Lady Tammy Murphy announced that the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted her initiative to make New Jersey the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its K-12 academic standards. As thousands of New Jersey students enter a new school year, the incorporation of climate change education for K-12 schools begins. This first of its kind curriculum will prepare and propel New Jersey students to the top of the ranks for the thousands of green economy jobs that will be made available in the future.

"New Jersey has the number one public education system in the nation, and our teachers and school administrators are well equipped to prepare our future climate change leaders to take on the climate crisis," **said Governor Murphy.** "Our children are our future, and the lessons New Jersey students will learn with this new curriculum will bring us one step closer to building our green

economy and reaching and sustaining 100 percent clean energy in New Jersey by 2050.”

“Today marks the first day of the highly anticipated climate change education curriculum in our K-12 school systems, and I cannot be more thrilled about the future for our students and for our state,” **said First Lady Tammy Murphy.** “New Jersey will be on the forefront of the climate movement, and these new standards will give our children the tools necessary to combat the effects of climate change. We are building the world’s next generation of climate literate leaders, including policymakers, historians, teachers, and more, who will discover new ways to address the climate crisis.”

“New Jersey will continue to be a national leader in preparing students to address issues related to climate change in the next decade,” **said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education.** “Our standards provide students with the tools to learn how climate change impacts our society, but how to also work collaboratively with peers and communities to address the issue of climate change.”



[READ MORE](#)

## First Lady Tammy Murphy Highlights Significant Investments in Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives

First Lady Tammy Murphy hosted a roundtable discussion to highlight the investments made in maternal and infant health initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) budget. The First Lady’s initiative, Nurture NJ, aims to reduce New Jersey’s maternal mortality by fifty percent over five years and eliminate racial disparities in birth outcomes. Since its inception in 2019, Nurture NJ has made significant



strides in addressing maternal and infant health care in the state of New Jersey. The FY2023 budget includes over \$58 million to support Nurture NJ programs and policies.

“These necessary investments will continue to address and combat the shocking numbers our state holds in maternal and infant mortality rates and racial disparities in health care,” **said Governor Murphy**. “The health of our mothers and babies is of the utmost importance to each of the First Lady and me, as well as this Administration as a whole. Strengthening our maternal and infant health care systems will help us continue to build a stronger, fairer, and more equitable New Jersey for all families who call our great state their home.”

“I am so grateful for the funding allocated to Nurture NJ in this year’s budget, which will allow us to continue our work transforming our state into the safest and most equitable in the nation to deliver and raise a baby,” **said First Lady Tammy Murphy**. “Given New Jersey has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the nation exacerbated by unacceptable racial disparities for our mothers and our babies, we feel it is our moral imperative to continue this fight. I am thrilled to see Nurture NJ build upon the significant progress we have already made, better support mothers and babies during one of the most vulnerable times of their lives, and, through innovative policymaking, become the national gold standard for maternal and infant health.”

[READ MORE](#)

---

# Governor Murphy Signs Bipartisan Bill Establishing Black Heritage Trail in New Jersey

09/7/2022

*Trail Will Highlight Remarkable Achievements and Legacies of New Jersey's*

*African American Figures*

**NEWARK** – In a room at the historic City of Newark's Public Library, surrounded by state and local officials, as well as activists, Governor Phil Murphy today signed bipartisan bill A2677. The bill requires the New Jersey Historical Commission to establish a Black Heritage Trail to promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and culture in the State. The Black Heritage Trail will highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the State.

"I am honored to sign this bill today, establishing a Black Heritage Trail in New Jersey. However, our work does not stop here," said **Governor Murphy**. "Celebrating and commemorating Black history is not something that we should relegate to only the month of February or to Juneteenth. Black history is New Jersey history. It must be honored every day of the year."

In January 2021, the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism within the Department of State launched the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, which invites visitors and residents to "discover the remarkable achievements and legacies of New Jersey's African American scholars, famous figures and everyday citizens who shaped the State's history for nearly four centuries." The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail will highlight landmarks, heritage sites, museums and modern-day attractions, which will be featured on downloadable three-day trip itineraries and map views. Under the bill, which appropriates \$ 1million to the Department of State to establish the historical markers, the Historical Commission must give special consideration to sites that are in close geographic proximity, thematically linked by surrounding arts and other tourism destinations, or recommended by the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation.

"The Black Heritage Trail will highlight major historical contributions of Black Americans and the events that helped shape our state," said **U.S. Representative Donald M. Payne**. "There are many stories in New Jersey's Black culture that need to be told.

New Jersey played a significant role in the Underground Railroad that helped enslaved Blacks in the southern U.S. escape to freedom in the north. In addition, many Blacks became permanent residents of the state during the Great Migration of southern Blacks into northern cities after World War I. I applaud Governor Murphy for signing the bill to create this trail and focusing more attention on the significant contributions of Blacks to New Jersey's history."

"With the establishment of the Black Heritage Trail, New Jerseyans and visitors from around the world will learn more about the significant contributions, history, and culture of Black people throughout New Jersey over the last four hundred years," said **Secretary of State Tahesha Way**. "Through partnership with the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation, this is an exciting opportunity for the New Jersey Historical Commission to help people identify and understand the places where Black people made history in New Jersey."

The primary sponsors of the bill are Assemblyman McClellan, Assemblywoman Reynolds Jackson, Assemblywoman Sumter, Senator Singleton, and Senator Testa.

"For nearly 400 years, Black Americans have been part of New Jersey's history. Black heritage and history has, for far too long, gone underrepresented and untold despite our contributions to industry, culture and arts," said **Senator Troy Singleton**. "The purpose of this new law establishing the Black Heritage Trail is to promote and honor these achievements through education, public programs, and historical markers."

"This trail will salute the accomplishments of so many African people and their descendants who have contributed significantly to the fabric of New Jersey history for almost four centuries. It is a long-overdue recognition for many who deserve to have their stories known," said **Senator Michael Testa**.

"Black history plays an integral role in the story of our country and our State," said **Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter**. "By creating the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail to highlight and celebrate so many important historic sites, we can raise awareness and educate our fellow New Jerseyans about the historical contributions of Black people in our State."

"I am honored to help shine a light on New Jersey's rich African history and encourage tourism to hidden Black heritage spots throughout the state," said **Assemblyman Antwan McClellan**. "From Ocean City's former segregated Westside to Cape May's new Harriet Tubman Museum, there are so many sites and stories that testify to our state's important Black history. This trail will

highlight Black abolitionists, veterans, artists, entertainers, and other leaders who have made their indelible marks on New Jersey's history and deserve to be recognized and celebrated. It ensures that New Jersey's Black history and culture will be properly documented and appreciated for future generations."

"Despite the rich influence the African-American community has had on New Jersey, black history has gone unrecognized for far too long," **said Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson.** "With the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, we can ensure important landmarks throughout the State receive the recognition they deserve while highlighting the moments and people who helped shape our nation."

"New Jersey in general and Newark in particular have long been at the center of African-American history in the United States. African-Americans have made many contributions to our state and nation, from the battlefields of Trenton in 1776, to the ongoing fight for freedom, and the rebirth of modern Newark," **said Mayor Ras Baraka.** "It is truly appropriate that we create a historic trail with itineraries, landmarks, and historic information, so that visitors and residents alike can learn our unique heritage and the contributions African-Americans have made in New Jersey. I commend Governor Murphy, our State Legislators, and the New Jersey Historical Commission on developing the Black Heritage Trail."

"If we omit this history, it is as if we are looking at ourselves with just one eye. We as a people and nation have too long been selective in how we understand and talk about history," **said Derek Davis, board member, Camden County Historical Society and the NJ Black Heritage Foundation.** " This reservoir of information and its public acknowledgement will teach us who we once were and can contextualize who we are, pointing us towards a better shared future."