

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

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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)

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)

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 ¹, amending P.L.2005,
2 c.47,¹ and supplementing chapter 16A of Title 52 of the Revised
3 Statutes ¹, and making an appropriation¹.
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 ¹“Commission” means the New Jersey Historical Commission,
22 established pursuant to P.L.1967, c. 271 (C.18A:73-22 et seq.).¹

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 ¹**[**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 shall¹ 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:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted May 26, 2022.

1 to be part of a New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. The ¹【division】
2 commission¹ may seek the assistance and cooperation of the New
3 Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the New Jersey ¹【Historical
4 Commission】 Division of Travel and Tourism¹, 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 ¹【through education, public programs, and
11 historical markers】¹. 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 ¹【division】 commission¹ 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 ¹and 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.)¹. 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 ¹【division】 commission¹ shall:

29 (1) determine and select such sites significant to Black history,
30 heritage, and culture in this State that the ¹【division】 commission¹
31 determines should be a part of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail
32 ¹【and shall mark each site with a suitable historical marker, unless
33 the site already has a marker that the division deems suitable】¹;

34 (2) design ¹and, for sites owned or on property owned by the
35 State¹, purchase ¹【,】¹ and erect ¹,¹ historical markers which the
36 ¹【division】 commission¹ 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 ¹【division】
39 commission¹ may deem necessary; and

40 (3) ¹【keep in good repair all】 provide oversight of¹ historical
41 markers that are a part of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail
42 erected by ¹【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 commission¹.

1 d. All historical markers on the New Jersey Black Heritage
2 Trail that are erected by the ¹【division】 commission¹ shall be the
3 property of the State. No person, entity, or business shall ¹erect,
4 receive, retain,¹ possess, transport, alter, or remove a marker without
5 written ¹【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 site¹.

19 e. ¹【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 institutions¹.

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 ¹be searchable and available as a list and as ¹provide a
2 downloadable itinerary or¹ an interactive map, and shall:
- 3 (1) specify the location of each heritage site included on the
4 New Jersey Black Heritage Trail ¹and provide driving directions
5 from the north, south, east, and west, as well as directions by public
6 transit where applicable¹;
- 7 (2) ¹provide 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)¹ display photographs of each heritage site;
- 11 ¹~~[(4)]~~ ¹(3) 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 ¹~~[(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 ¹~~[(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 site¹ .
- 19 b. ¹The 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.¹ 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 ¹any¹ vacation itineraries. ¹The division may
30 distribute the information by any other method it deems appropriate.¹
- 31 c. ¹In 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.¹ The director shall ensure that the Internet site is updated
42 whenever a new Black heritage site is established ¹by the New
43 Jersey Historical Commission¹. The division may accept
44 information or changes to the Internet site from ¹the New Jersey
45 Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation,¹ 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 ¹[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. ¹

16

17 ¹4. 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.】¹

4
5 ¹3. 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.¹

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

5

6 ¹4. 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.¹

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:

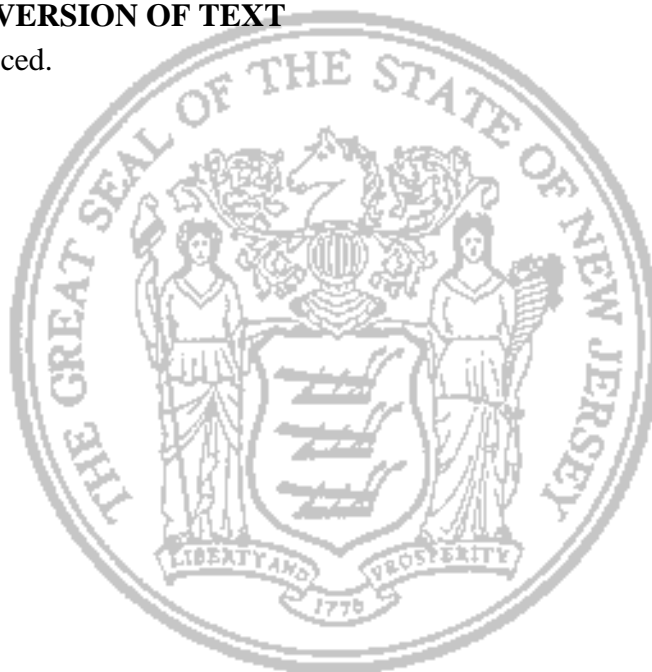
**Assemblywoman Jaffer, Assemblymen Webber, Sampson, Conaway,
Guardian, Assemblywomen McKnight and Park**

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.
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- 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

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.