

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1991**  
4 **By: Senator Jewell**

# A Bill

**SENATE BILL 710**

## **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY ADVISORY  
9 COMMITTEE; TO PRESCRIBE THE COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP AND  
10 DUTIES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE HISTORIAN WILL GIVE  
11 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE; TO PROVIDE FOR A  
12 PROGRAM OF ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY FOR INCLUSION IN THE  
13 PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

14  
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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17 *SECTION 1. (a) To advise the Arkansas History Commission with respect*  
18 *to gathering, developing, and keeping the history of a segment of Arkansas*  
19 *society whose history has been overlooked and forgotten and has been simply*  
20 *neglected because of a lack of concern, collecting materials bearing on the*  
21 *history of black Arkansans from the earliest times, encouraging historical*  
22 *work and research in the background of black Arkansans to help the young*  
23 *citizens of the state to appreciate their heritage, and performing work in*  
24 *relation to the history of black Arkansans, the Arkansas Black History*  
25 *Advisory Committee is hereby created and established at the seat of government*  
26 *of this state.*

27 (b) The offices of the *Committee* and the archives of its records shall  
28 be located with those of the Arkansas History Commission in the One Capitol  
29 Mall Building, State Capitol, Little Rock.

30  
31 *SECTION 2. (a) The Arkansas Black History Advisory Committee all*  
32 *consist of seven (7) members who shall be residents and electors of this*  
33 *state. The members shall be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice*  
34 *and consent of the Senate.*

35 (b) Except for the initial terms of the *Committee*, each member shall

1 serve for a term of seven (7) years. The term of office of each member of the  
2 *Committee* shall commence on January 15 following the expiration date of his  
3 predecessor's term and shall end on January 14 of the seventh year following  
4 the year in which the term commenced. The terms of the initial members shall  
5 be staggered between one (1) year and seven (7) years as may be determined by  
6 lot at the *Committees's* first meeting.

7 (c) The membership of the *Committee* shall be made up of person's  
8 interested in the collection, recordation, preservation, and development of  
9 the history of black Arkansans. The membership of the *Committee* shall be as  
10 follows:

11 (1) four (4) members of the *Committee* shall be persons from the  
12 higher education academic faculty of Arkansas' four-year colleges and  
13 universities representing the History Departments, at least two (2) of whom  
14 shall be from the state's two (2) *predominantly* black four-year colleges:  
15 Philander Smith College and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; and

16 (2) three (3) members shall be the citizens of the state at-large  
17 and shall have a demonstrated interest in black history.

18 (d) Any vacancies arising in the membership of the *Committee* for any  
19 reason other than expiration of the regular terms for which the members were  
20 appointed shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, and to be thereafter  
21 effective until the expiration of the regular terms, subject, however, to the  
22 confirmation of the Senate when it is next in session.

23 (e) The *Committee* shall select from its membership a chairman and a  
24 vice-chairman.

25 (f) Members of the *Committee* shall receive no pay for their services  
26 but, with respect to attendance at each regular or special meeting of the  
27 *Committee*, but, in the event funds are appropriated for the purpose, shall be  
28 entitled to reimbursement per diem for each day or part of a day the *Committee*  
29 is in session. Reimbursement shall be in an amount equal to the maximum daily  
30 allowance for meals and lodging paid, as provided by law, to a state employee  
31 for in-state travel, plus mileage at the rate per mile provided by law for the  
32 reimbursement of mileage expense for state employees, for travel from their  
33 homes to the place of the meeting and return.

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35 SECTION 3. (a) The *Committee* shall meet at such times and places as in  
36 each instance may suit the *Committee's* convenience and its purposes, and all

1 meetings shall be open to the public.

2 (b) The *Committee* shall adopt, and may modify, rules and by-laws for  
 3 the conduct of its business, *subject to approval of the Arkansas History*  
 4 *Commission*. It shall keep a record of its transactions, findings, and  
 5 determinations, which record shall be public.

6 (c) The rules shall provide for regular meetings and for special  
 7 meetings at the call of the chairman or, in his absence or incapacity, the  
 8 vice-chairman, or upon written request of at least four (4) members.

9 (d) The State Historian, provided for in Chapter 3 of Title 13 of the  
 10 Arkansas Code of 1987, Annotated, shall be ex officio secretary of the  
 11 *Committee* but shall have no vote on matters coming before it.

12 (e) A quorum shall consist of not less than four (4) members present at  
 13 any regular or special meeting. The affirmative vote of that number shall be  
 14 necessary for the disposition of any business.

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16 SECTION 4. (a) It shall be the function, power, and duty of the  
 17 *Arkansas Black History Advisory Committee to assist the Arkansas History*  
 18 *Commission to:*

19 (1) Collect, classify, and preserve, through the making of  
 20 photographic copies or by other means, records, manuscripts, maps, diaries,  
 21 letters, war service records, journals, and papers of historical value,  
 22 pertaining to the black race in Arkansas and black Arkansans;

23 (2) Collect and preserve portraits, photographs, sketches,  
 24 drawings, and other likenesses of eminent black Arkansans, historic places,  
 25 houses, buildings, and scenes involving the black race in Arkansas;

26 (3) Select and publish any papers, research, and other source  
 27 material on the contribution of the black race in Arkansas history which it  
 28 shall deem appropriate and funds will permit;

29 (4) Build up and maintain a reference library of the source  
 30 material on the black race in Arkansas history;

31 (5) Cooperate with, and receive the cooperation of, any  
 32 historical associations or any black historical associations and other  
 33 nonprofit organizations devoted to the history or black history of this state;

34 (b) All records, papers, archives, and historical material at any time  
 35 in the possession of the Commission, excepting such as it may have on loan,

1 shall be and remain the property of the State of Arkansas.

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4 SECTION 5. The Arkansas Black History *Advisory Committee* and the  
5 Director of the General Education Division of the Arkansas Department of  
6 Education or his designee shall cooperate with one another to develop the  
7 materials for a program of historical contributions by the black race in  
8 Arkansas for inclusion in the curriculum segment of the Arkansas history  
9 required to be instructed in Arkansas Code § 6-16-109. The Director shall  
10 insure that these materials are reproduced and sent to all school districts in  
11 the state as a resource for inclusion in the Arkansas history courses.

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13 SECTION 6. The State Historian, provided for in Chapter 3 of Title 13  
14 of the Arkansas Code of 1987, Annotated, shall assist the Arkansas Black  
15 History *Advisory Committee* in the performance of its duties and shall be the  
16 custodian of all property, reference, and source materials of the Committee.  
17 The State Historian shall be charged with the duty of administering this act.

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19 SECTION 7. All provisions of this act of general and permanent nature  
20 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
21 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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23 SECTION 8. If any provisions of this act or the application thereof to  
24 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect  
25 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
26 the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
27 act are declared to be severable.

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29 SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
30 hereby repealed.

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/s/Jewell

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