

# HOUSE BILL 805

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By: **Delegates Wells, Amprey, Bridges, and Toles**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2023

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Human Services – Office of African American Affairs**  
3 **– Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of African American Affairs in the Department  
5 of Human Services; requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation in the  
6 annual budget bill for certain salaries of the Office; and generally relating to the  
7 establishment of the Office of African American Affairs.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Human Services

10 Section 2–101

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Human Services

15 Section 6–901 through 6–905 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 9. Office of  
16 African American Affairs”

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Human Services**

22 2–101.

23 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

24 (b) “Department” means the Department of Human Services.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Human Services.

2 Title 6. Community Services.

3 **SUBTITLE 9. OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS.**

4 **6-901.**

5 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN**  
6 **AFFAIRS.**

7 **6-902.**

8 **(A) THERE IS AN OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN THE**  
9 **DEPARTMENT.**

10 **(B) THE OFFICE SHALL BE LOCATED IN THE BANNEKER-DOUGLASS**  
11 **MUSEUM.**

12 **6-903.**

13 **(A) THE OFFICE SHALL:**

14 **(1) STUDY THE STATUS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE STATE;**

15 **(2) PROVIDE TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH SERVICES;**

16 **(3) DEVELOP AN ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
17 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION;**

18 **(4) RECOMMEND METHODS OF OVERCOMING ALL FORMS OF**  
19 **DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING SYSTEMIC AND STRUCTURAL DISCRIMINATION;**

20 **(5) DEVELOP INNOVATIVE POLICY AND PROVIDE WAYS TO IMPROVE**  
21 **EXISTING POLICY THAT IS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING CONDITIONS AND REMOVING**  
22 **BARRIERS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE STATE; AND**

23 **(6) PROVIDE INFORMED ADVICE TO THE EXECUTIVE AND**  
24 **LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT ON PROMINENT ISSUES FACED BY**  
25 **AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE STATE.**

26 **(B) EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL COORDINATE WITH REPRESENTATIVES**  
27 **OF THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN IN RESPONSE TO**

1 CRITICAL ISSUES FACED BY AFRICAN AMERICANS:

2 (1) THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE  
3 STATE;

4 (2) THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY  
5 AND CULTURE;

6 (3) THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
7 DEVELOPMENT;

8 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

9 (5) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S OFFICE OF  
10 MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES; AND

11 (6) VARIOUS COMMUNITY AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SERVING  
12 AFRICAN AMERICANS.

13 **6-904.**

14 (A) (1) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
15 THE OFFICE, WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

16 (2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL HIRE AN EXECUTIVE  
17 ASSOCIATE.

18 (B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN  
19 APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 FOR THE SALARIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
20 AND EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE.

21 **6-905.**

22 ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, AND EACH JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER, THE  
23 OFFICE SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF  
24 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES  
25 OF THE OFFICE, INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE  
26 WITH § 6-903(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2023.