

SENATE, No. 4596

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMEBER 28, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Center for Black Policy, Research, and Development in Department of State; makes appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the Center for Black Policy, Research, and
2 Development in the Department of State, supplementing Title 52
3 of the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.
4

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

8 1. a. There is established in the Department of State an office
9 to be known as the Center for Black Policy, Research, and
10 Development. The purpose of the center shall be to facilitate the
11 participation of the Black community in the policy-making process
12 and administer grants programs that support the development of the
13 Black community in New Jersey.

14 b. The center shall be overseen by an executive director who
15 shall be appointed by the Governor, in consultation with the
16 Secretary of State. The executive director shall establish priorities
17 for the center, in accordance with this section, and may hire staff to
18 support the operations of the center, within the limits of funds
19 appropriated for such purpose.

20 c. The center shall:

21 (1) create processes for engaging with the Black community on
22 matters of policy;

23 (2) establish working relationships with individuals and
24 organizations that advocate for the advancement of the Black
25 community;

26 (3) administer grant programs to encourage development and
27 provide support services for the Black community;

28 (4) develop training programs and employment networks for the
29 Black community;

30 (5) conduct research on issues of particular concern to the Black
31 community;

32 (6) inform members of the Executive and Legislative Branches
33 of State Government on initiatives with the potential to impact the
34 Black community; and

35 (7) undertake such other projects and responsibilities as the
36 executive director deems necessary and appropriate.

37 d. The center may also engage with other State and local public
38 entities for the purposes of developing or improving on existing
39 public programs, implementing training programs, or distributing
40 grants or other public funds designated for the support of the Black
41 community.

42 e. The center shall annually report to the Governor and to the
43 Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
44 19.1), regarding the operations of the center. The report shall
45 include an assessment of grants and programs administered or
46 supported by the center, including the accessibility, participation,
47 and overall impact of such grants and programs in relation to the
48 Black community.

