

SENATE BILL NO. 673

October 30, 2025, Introduced by Senator ALBERT and referred to Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1998 PA 409, entitled
"Michigan freedom trail commission act,"
by amending sections 2 and 3 (MCL 399.82 and 399.83), as amended by
2001 PA 79.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Department" means the department of ~~history, arts, and~~
3 ~~libraries.~~**natural resources.**

4 (b) "Michigan freedom trail commission" or "commission" means
5 the Michigan freedom trail commission created in section 3.

(c) "Michigan history center" means the Michigan history center created in section 3 of the Michigan history center act, 2016 PA 470, MCL 399.803.

Sec. 3. (1) The Michigan freedom trail commission is created within the department. The budgeting, procurement, and related functions of the commission and administrative responsibilities for the staff of the commission ~~shall~~**must** be performed under the direction and supervision of the department.

(2) The commission ~~shall consist~~**consists** of the following members:

(a) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) One member appointed by the senate majority leader.

(c) Nine members appointed by the governor, as follows:

(i) Three members from the academic community knowledgeable in African-American history.

(ii) One member actively involved in civil rights issues.

(iii) One member knowledgeable in historic preservation.

(iv) One member representing local communities in which the underground railroad had a significant presence.

(v) Three members at large, 1 of whom ~~shall~~**must** be a representative of the ~~museum~~**Museum** of African American ~~history~~**History** located in the city of Detroit.

(d) Three members serving ex officio without vote as follows:

(i) The ~~chief executive officer of the Michigan economic development corporation~~**director of the Michigan history center** or his or her representative.

(ii) The state librarian or his or her representative.

(iii) The director of the department or his or her

1 representative.

2 (3) The members ~~appointed~~ under subsection (2)(c) first
3 appointed to the commission ~~shall~~ **must** be appointed ~~within 90 days~~
4 ~~after December 21, 1998.~~ **not later than March 21, 1999.**

5 (4) Members of the commission appointed under subsection
6 (2)(c) shall serve for terms of 4 years or until a successor is
7 appointed, whichever is later, except that of the members first
8 appointed 3 shall serve for 1 year, 3 shall serve for 2 years, and
9 3 shall serve for 3 years. A member of the commission appointed by
10 the speaker of the house of representatives or the senate majority
11 leader under subsection (2)(a) or (b), respectively, shall hold
12 office for a term of 2 years to coincide with the term of office of
13 state representative.

14 (5) A vacancy on the commission ~~shall~~ **must** be filled for the
15 unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

16 (6) The governor, speaker of the house of representatives, or
17 senate majority leader may remove a member of the commission
18 appointed by ~~him or her~~ **that individual** for incompetency,
19 dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in
20 office, or any other good cause.

21 (7) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect from
22 among its members a chairperson and other officers as it considers
23 necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting, the commission
24 shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the call of
25 the chairperson or if requested by 7 or more members appointed
26 under subsection (2)(a), (b), and (c).

27 (8) A majority of the members of the commission appointed
28 under subsection (2)(a), (b), and (c) constitute a quorum for the
29 transaction of business at a meeting of the commission. A majority

1 of the members appointed under subsection (2) (a), (b), and (c)
2 present and serving are required for official action of the
3 commission.

4 (9) The business that the commission may perform shall be
5 conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance
6 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

7 (10) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or
8 retained by the commission in the performance of an official
9 function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442,
10 MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

11 (11) Members of the commission shall serve without
12 compensation. However, members of the commission may be reimbursed
13 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance
14 of their official duties as members of the commission.

15 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
16 unless Senate Bill No. 631 of the 103rd Legislature is enacted into
17 law.