

CHAPTER 672

(Senate Bill 707)

AN ACT to repeal Section 409 of Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Supplement), title "Governor—Executive and Administrative Departments," subtitle "Commission on Negro History and Culture," and to enact new Section 409 in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the section repealed, creating a new Commission on Negro History and Culture to exist for a three-year period, defining its composition, purposes, powers and duties, and providing for the transfer of assets to the new Commission, and providing that this Act is an emergency measure.

WHEREAS Chapter 435 of the Acts of 1969 established a "Commission on Negro History and Culture" to study Negro history and culture and to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly; and

WHEREAS Chapter 129 of the Acts of 1970 extended the life of the Commission to the end of the 1971 session of the Maryland General Assembly; and

WHEREAS the Commission has faithfully carried out its duties and has discerned on the part of Marylanders, white and black, a groundswell of interest in black history and culture as evidenced by the response to thousands of questionnaires distributed throughout the State by the Commission; now, therefore

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 409 of Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Supplement), title "Governor—Executive and Administrative Departments," subtitle "Commission on Negro History and Culture," be and it is hereby repealed and that new Section 409 be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the section so repealed, and to read as follows:

[409.

(a) *Creation and composition; appointment of members; chairman and vice-chairman; quorum; meetings.*—There is created a commission to be known as the Commission on Negro History and Culture (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"). The Commission shall be composed of seven members, appointed by the Governor from persons who are authorities on Negro history and culture. The Governor shall designate one of the members of the Commission as chairman, and one as vice-chairman. Four members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. The Commission shall meet at the call of the chairman or at the call of a majority of the members thereof.

(b) *Employees.*—The Commission shall have the power to appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel, as it deems advisable. The Commission may procure the temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants.

(c) *Duties.*—The Commission shall conduct a study of all proposals to create a better understanding and knowledge of Negro history and culture and shall make a recommendation to the Governor and to