

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

FLOOR SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 1919

By: Johnson (Constance) of the
Senate

and

Shumate of the House

FLOOR SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the African American Centennial Plaza; acknowledging the unique history and contributions of African American Oklahomans; expressing legislative intent; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby recognizes the unique history and contributions of African Americans in Oklahoma as a story unlike any to be told in the United States. African Americans came to Oklahoma in the 1800's throughout the early 1900's as settlers, farmers, cowboys and members of the Five Civilized Tribes. By statehood, African Americans outnumbered all other races present in the state, and Oklahoma had more all-black towns than any other state in the nation. African Americans from Oklahoma served as soldiers in the Civil War and were some of the country's greatest jazz musicians. African American Oklahomans were also at the forefront of and led some of the nation's greatest civil rights battles. The accomplishments of African American Oklahomans in the fields of academia, business, science, literature, politics, entertainment and sports are applaudable and worthy of note.

B. The Legislature hereby expresses its support for the creation and location of an African American Centennial Plaza on the grounds of the State Capitol in Oklahoma City. This Plaza shall ensure the education and awareness of all Oklahomans and others about the pioneering spirits and unique contributions of African Americans to Oklahoma's History.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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