

SENATE BILL 2612

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 9 and Title 13, relative to the "African
American Cultural and Historical Grant Act."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "African American Cultural and Historical Grant Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 11, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) There is created within the state general fund a special account to be known as the African American cultural and historical grant fund. The purpose of the fund is to support capital projects at facilities in this state that highlight the contributions, culture, or history of African Americans.

(b) The Tennessee historical commission shall administer the fund.

(c) The fund is composed of money appropriated by the general assembly for the fund, and gifts, grants, and other donations received by the commission for the fund.

(d) Subject to the availability of funds, the commission shall allocate and disperse grants to entities and facilities to effectuate the purposes of this section. The commission shall establish and publish guidelines for applications, including eligibility, and the award of grants. Priority for grants must be given to projects that encourage the design or construction of a new facility or the renovation of an existing facility in an area with great cultural significance in which no facility exists; enhance the beauty or aesthetic value of facilities named for significant African-Americans; or restore facilities on the national register of historic places. Money in the fund may be used by the

commission for program administration, marketing expenses, and program evaluation; however, such expenses must not exceed five percent (5%) of the total amount appropriated for the program in any fiscal year.

(e) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund for the benefit of the fund in accordance with § 9-4-603. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund must be credited to and remain part of the fund. Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance of the fund remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section.

(f) The commission shall submit an annual report to the finance, ways and means committees of the senate and the house of representatives by March 1, 2025, and by March 1 of each subsequent year on the status of this program and the allocation of grant funds.

(g) The commission may promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this section. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in chapter 5 of this title.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.