

**From:** [Arellano, Joey](#)  
**To:** [Press](#)  
**Subject:** NEWS: Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls Appoints Representative Fentrice Driskell to Task Force on Abandoned African-American Cemeteries  
**Date:** Friday, July 9, 2021 12:07:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## The Florida House of Representatives

**Chris Sprowls**  
Speaker

### NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
July 9, 2021

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## Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls Appoints Representative Fentrice Driskell to Task Force on Abandoned African-American Cemeteries

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 9, 2021)** — Today, Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, appointed Representative Fentrice Driskell, R-Tampa, as a member of the Task Force on Abandoned African-American Cemeteries. The Task Force was created by House Bill 37, sponsored by Driskell and signed into law by Governor DeSantis on June 9.

“Representative Fentrice Driskell’s tenacity in uncovering the history of Florida’s African-American cemeteries will serve her well on this task force,” said Speaker Chris Sprowls. “Through her work, I am confident the task force will provide overdue respect and honor for those buried across the state.”

Representative Driskell added, “Thank you Speaker Sprowls for the appointment to serve on this task force. I hope the good work done by the group will allow so many Floridians to learn about their history, provide much-needed answers, and give long overdue dignity to the deceased.”

The 10-member Task Force on Abandoned African-American Cemeteries adjunct to the Florida Department of State is charged with studying the unmarked or abandoned African-American cemeteries and burial grounds across the state and recommending strategies for identifying, recording and preserving such lands and records in a manner that ensures dignity and respect for the deceased. The first meeting of the task force must be held no later than August 1, 2021, and must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and State Legislature by January 1, 2022.

Elected in 2018 to represent the 63<sup>rd</sup> House District of Florida, Representative Driskell served as Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee as well as a Member of the Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee, the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee and the Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

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