

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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(7lr1817)

ENROLLED RESOLUTION

— *Judicial Proceedings / Rules and Executive Nominations* —

Introduced by **Senators Exum, Britt, Conway, Frosh, Gladden, Jones, Madaleno, McFadden, Muse, and Pugh**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Slavery in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing regret for the role that Maryland played in instituting
4 and maintaining slavery and for the discrimination that was slavery's legacy.

5 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland relied on slavery for 200 years; and

6 WHEREAS, To meet the needs of its economy, Maryland prior to 1808 imported
7 men, women, and children, torn from their homes in Africa and subjected to the
8 brutality of the Middle Passage; and

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



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1 WHEREAS, Maryland citizens trafficked in human flesh until the adoption of
2 the Constitution of 1864; and

3 WHEREAS, Slavery subjected its victims to unspeakable cruelties, including
4 beatings, rape, and the forcible separation of family members from one another; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Maryland, nurtured by the slave culture of our State,
6 wrote the Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision declaring African Americans incapable
7 of citizenship because they had "no rights which the white man was bound to respect";
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Slavery fostered a climate of oppression not only for slaves and
10 their descendants but also for people of color who moved to Maryland subsequent to
11 slavery's abolition; and

12 WHEREAS, Slavery's legacy has afflicted the citizens of our State down to the
13 present; and

14 WHEREAS, Slavery and discrimination are utterly contrary to the principles
15 that this Nation and this State profess; and

16 WHEREAS, It is time for the State of Maryland to acknowledge the role the
17 State played in maintaining the institution of slavery and its attendant evils; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State
20 of Maryland expresses profound regret for the role that Maryland played in instituting
21 and maintaining slavery and for the discrimination that was slavery's legacy; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That the State of Maryland commits itself to the formation of a
24 more perfect union among its citizens regardless of color, creed, or race; and be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the State of Maryland recommits itself to the principle that
27 all people ~~are equal and equally endowed with inalienable rights to life, liberty, and~~
28 ~~the pursuit of happiness.~~ "are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator
29 with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of
30 Happiness."