

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Joint Resolution 6 (Senator Exum, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Rules and Executive Nominations

Slavery in Maryland

This joint resolution expresses profound regret for the role that Maryland played in instituting and maintaining slavery and for the discrimination that was slavery's legacy; commits the State to the formation of a more perfect union among its citizens regardless of color, creed, or race; and recommits the State to the principle that all people are created equal and endowed by their Creator with inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with this joint resolution would not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 316 of 2000 established the Commission to Coordinate the Study, Commemoration, and Impact of Slavery's History and Legacy in Maryland. The purpose of the commission includes • networking museums, cultural organizations, cultural parks and centers, and private collections in order to support the cataloging, preservation, and presentation of cultural resources relative to the history and legacy of slavery in Maryland; • publicizing and seeking support for initiatives relating to the history and legacy of slavery; and • keeping the State informed of the latest research on the lingering psychological, sociological, and economic impacts of slavery and its legacy.

Background: In February 2007, the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate each unanimously approved a resolution expressing “profound regret for the Commonwealth’s role in sanctioning the immoral institution of human slavery, in the historic wrongs visited upon native peoples, and in all other forms of discrimination and injustice that have been rooted in racial and cultural bias and misunderstanding”.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SJ 4 of 2006, an identical joint resolution as amended, was adopted by the Senate but the House of Delegates took no action.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2007
ncs/jr Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 25, 2007

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