

House Resolution 322

By: Representatives Mainor of the 56th, Thomas of the 65th, Mitchell of the 88th, Jackson of the 128th, and Lim of the 98th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Research and Development of Reparation Proposals
2 for the Institution of Slavery for African Americans; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, more than 4 million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United
4 States and the colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865, inclusive; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the
6 United States from 1789 through 1865, inclusive; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and
8 inhumane deprivation of Africans' life, liberty, African citizenship rights, and cultural
9 heritage and denied them the fruits of their own labor; and
- 10 WHEREAS, a preponderance of scholarly, legal, and community evidentiary documentation,
11 as well as popular culture markers, constitute the basis for inquiry into the ongoing effects
12 of the institution of slavery and its legacy of persistent systemic structures of discrimination
13 on living African Americans and society in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, following the abolition of slavery, the United States government at the federal,
15 state, and local levels continued to perpetuate, condone, and often profit from practices that
16 continued to brutalize and disadvantage African Americans, including sharecropping, convict
17 leasing, Jim Crow laws, redlining, unequal education, and disproportionate treatment at the
18 hands of the criminal justice system; and

19 WHEREAS, as a result of the historic and continued discrimination, African Americans
20 continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships, including, but
21 not limited to, having nearly 1 million black people incarcerated, an unemployment rate more
22 than twice the current white unemployment rate, and an average of less than one-sixteenth
23 of the wealth of white families, a disparity that has worsened, not improved, over time.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

25 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
26 on Research and Development of Reparation Proposals for the Institution of Slavery for
27 African Americans.

28 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
29 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
31 of the committee.

32 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
33 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
34 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. In particular, the
35 committee shall:

36 (A) Identify, compile, and synthesize the relevant corpus of evidentiary documentation
37 of the institution of slavery that existed within the United States and the colonies that

38 became the United States from 1619 to 1865, inclusive. The committee's
39 documentation and examination shall include the facts related to all of the following:

- 40 (i) The capture and procurement of Africans;
- 41 (ii) The transport of Africans to the United States and the colonies that became the
42 United States for the purpose of enslavement, including their treatment during
43 transport;
- 44 (iii) The sale and acquisition of Africans as chattel property in interstate and
45 intrastate commerce;
- 46 (iv) The treatment of African slaves in the colonies and the United States, including
47 the deprivation of their freedom, exploitation of their labor, and destruction of their
48 culture, language, religion, and families;
- 49 (v) The extensive sexual abuse, chattelization of persons, and denial of humanity;
- 50 (vi) The federal and state laws that discriminated against formerly enslaved Africans
51 and their descendants who were deemed United States citizens from 1868 to the
52 present;
- 53 (vii) The other forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed
54 African slaves and their descendants who were deemed United States citizens from
55 1868 to the present, including redlining, educational funding discrepancies, and
56 predatory financial practices; and
- 57 (viii) The lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery and the matters
58 described in this subparagraph on living African Americans who are descendants of
59 persons enslaved in the United States (African Americans) and on society in the
60 United States;
- 61 (B) Recommend appropriate ways to educate Georgians on the committee's findings;
62 and

63 (C) Recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the committee's findings on
64 the matters described in this paragraph. In making recommendations, the committee
65 shall address, among other issues, all of the following:

66 (i) How the recommendations comport with international standards of remedy for
67 wrongs and injuries caused by the State of Georgia, that include full reparations and
68 special measures, as understood by various relevant international protocols, laws, and
69 findings;

70 (ii) How the State of Georgia will offer a formal apology on behalf of the people of
71 Georgia for the perpetration of gross human rights violations and crimes against
72 humanity on African slaves and their descendants;

73 (iii) How Georgia laws and policies that continue to disproportionately and
74 negatively affect African Americans as a group and perpetuate the lingering material
75 and psychosocial effects of slavery can be eliminated;

76 (iv) How the injuries resulting from matters described in this subparagraph can be
77 reversed and how to provide appropriate policies, programs, projects, and
78 recommendations for the purpose of reversing the injuries;

79 (v) How, in consideration of the committee's findings, any form of compensation to
80 African Americans, with a special consideration for African Americans who are
81 descendants of persons enslaved in the United States, is calculated;

82 (vi) What form of compensation should be awarded, through what instrumentalities,
83 and who should be eligible for such compensation; and

84 (vii) How, in consideration of the committee's findings, any other forms of
85 rehabilitation or restitution to African descendants are warranted and what form and
86 scope those measures should take.

87 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
88 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

89 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
90 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

91 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
92 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
93 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
94 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
95 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
96 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

97 (6) **Report.**

98 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
99 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
100 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
101 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

102 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
103 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
104 of this paragraph.

105 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
106 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
107 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
108 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

109 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
110 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
111 thereof.

112 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.