

SJM 4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Frederick

**Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation**

Action Date: 03/31/21
Action: Do adopt.
Vote: 4-3-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Gelser, Manning Jr, Prozanski
Nays: 3 - Heard, Linthicum, Thatcher
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Amie Fender-Sosa, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Urges Congress to pass House Resolution 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act. Represents that a preponderance of scholarly and legal evidence forms the basis for inquiry into the ongoing effects of slavery and its legacy of persistent systemic structures of discrimination on living African descendants of slaves in the United States. States that Congress should explore governmental roles in supporting the institution of slavery and the forms of discrimination thereafter, and that the federal government has a responsibility to adopt programs, policies, and funding, to address reparations.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The need to look at the impact of historical racism and its effects on African Americans today
- Obstacles faced by African Americans to owning a home, building wealth, and accessing education and health care
- Intentional governmental efforts to destroy Black communities
- Disparities in the justice system
- GI Bill, Homestead Act, minimum wage laws, did not apply to African Americans

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Resolution 40 would establish the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans. The commission would examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies. Among other requirements, the commission would identify: (1) the role of the federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African-Americans and society.

Senate Joint Memorial 4 urges Congress to pass House Resolution 40, the Federal Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.