

**SJM 4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Bynum

**House Committee On Judiciary**

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**Action Date:** 05/24/21

**Action:** Be Adopted.

**Vote:** 6-4-0-0

**Yeas:** 6 - Bynum, Dexter, Helm, Kropf, Power, Wilde

**Nays:** 4 - Lewis, Morgan, Noble, Wallan

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Amie Fender-Sosa, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/6, 5/24

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**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:**

- Examination of the impact of historical racism and its effects on African Americans today
- Disparities in the justice system
- Examples of intentional governmental efforts to destroy Black communities

**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.