

Mobilizing For Lineage and Identity



Marcus Alexander Champion
NAASD LA, CJEC Advisory Board



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AJR-21 Reparations for descendants of enslaved persons. (2019-2020)

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REVISED SEPTEMBER 03, 2019

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2019–2020 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

NO. 21

Introduced by Assembly Members Gonzalez, McCarty, and Weber

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bonta, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Daly, Eggman, Friedman, Gabriel, Cristina Garcia, Gipson, Gloria, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kamlager-Dove, Levine, Limón, Low, Maienschein, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Rendon, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Smith, Mark Stone, Ting, Wicks, and Wood)

June 19, 2019

Relative to reparations for descendants of enslaved persons.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 21, as introduced, Gonzalez. Reparations for descendants of enslaved persons.

This measure would formally apologize for California's past complicity in enabling and furthering the practice of slavery and would urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to enact House Resolution 40 to study the legacy of slavery and provide recommendations on redress for descendants of enslaved persons.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865; and

WHEREAS, The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the government of the United States from 1789 through 1865; and

WHEREAS, The slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of life, liberty, citizenship rights, and cultural heritage, and denied enslaved persons the fruits of their own labor; and



ACR-130 African descendants of slaves in the United States. (2019-2020)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 130

CHAPTER 176

Relative to African descendants of slaves in the United States.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 26, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 130, Weber. African descendants of slaves in the United States.

This measure would recognize the need to pursue avenues to implement proposed reparations for the descendants of African slaves in the United States. The measure would further recognize August 2019 as marking 400 years since Africans were brought to Virginia.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, August 2019 will mark 400 years since the first arrival of Africans to present-day America, and the United States Congress has established the 400 Years of African-American History Commission to commemorate the historic heritage and contributions that Americans of African descent have made to help shape the cultural, academic, social, economic, and moral attributes of this nation; and

WHEREAS, In August 1619, the first documented Africans arrived in the English colony of Virginia. The group, recorded upon arrival as "20 and odd Negroes," was part of a larger group of West Africans enslaved by Portuguese slave traders. They were on their way to Veracruz, Mexico, aboard a Portuguese ship when they were captured off the coast of Mexico by an English warship and transported to Virginia, where they were put ashore at what is now Hampton, Virginia, and sold as involuntary laborers or indentured servants; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies that became the United States between 1619 and 1865; and

WHEREAS, The institution of chattel slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the government of the United States from 1789 through 1865; and

WHEREAS, Chattel slavery flourished in the United States and constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of life, liberty, citizenship rights, and cultural heritage, and denied enslaved persons the fruits of their own labor; and

WHEREAS, The first mention of African enslavement in California was in 1537; and

WHEREAS, In the 1840s and 1850s, Members of the California Legislature fought to ensure that free Black people were prohibited from immigrating to or living in California; and



AB-3121 Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans. (2019-2020)

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Date Published: 02/21/2020 09:00 PM

REVISED JUNE 04, 2020

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2019–2020 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 3121

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Burke, Cooper, Gipson, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, Kamlager, ~~and
McCarty~~ ~~McCarty~~, and Gonzalez)

(Coauthors: Senators Bradford and Mitchell)

February 21, 2020

An act to add Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 8301) to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3121, as introduced, Weber. Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

Existing law requests the Regents of the University of California to assemble a colloquium of scholars to draft a research proposal to analyze the economic benefits of slavery that accrued to owners and the businesses, including insurance companies and their subsidiaries, that received those benefits, and to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding those findings.

Existing law requires the Insurance Commissioner to request and obtain information from insurers licensed and doing business in this state regarding any records of slaveholder insurance policies issued by any predecessor corporation during the slavery era. Existing law requires insurers to research and report to the commissioner on insurance policies that provided coverage for injury to, or death of, enslaved people.

This bill would establish the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, consisting of 8 members, appointed as provided. The bill would require the Task Force to, among other things, identify, compile, and synthesize the relevant corpus of evidentiary documentation of the institution of slavery that existed within the United States and the colonies. The bill would require the Task Force to recommend, among other things, the form of compensation that should be awarded, the instrumentalities through which it should be awarded, and who should be eligible for this compensation. The bill would require the Task Force to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature. The bill would authorize reimbursement of the members' expenses only to the extent an appropriation is made in the Budget Act.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

H.R.3745 - Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act

101st Congress (1989-1990)

Sponsor: [Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. \[D-MI-1\]](#) (Introduced 11/20/1989)

Committees: House - Judiciary

Latest Action: House - 10/24/1990 Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:  Introduced

Summary(1) **Text(1)** Actions(5) Titles(2) Amendments(0) Cosponsors(24) Committees(1) Related Bills(0)

There is one version of the bill.

Text available as: TXT | This text [predates authenticated digital publishing](#). It may be incomplete.

Shown Here: Introduced in House

HR 3745 IH
101st CONGRESS
1st Session
H. R. 3745

To acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 20, 1989

Mr. CONYERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

- (a) FINDINGS- The Congress finds that--
- (1) approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865;
 - (2) the institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 through 1865;
 - (3) the slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of Africans' life, liberty, African citizenship rights, and cultural heritage, and denied them the fruits of their own labor; and

Public Law 96-317
96th Congress

An Act

July 31, 1980
[S. 1647]

To establish a Commission to gather facts to determine whether any wrong was committed against those American citizens and permanent resident aliens affected by Executive Order Numbered 9066, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Commission on
Wartime
Relocation and
Internment of
Civilians Act.
50 USC app. 1981
note.

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act".

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

50 USC app. 1981
note

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) approximately one hundred and twenty thousand civilians were relocated and detained in internment camps pursuant to Executive Order Numbered 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and other associated actions of the Federal Government;

(2) approximately one thousand Aleut civilian American citizens were relocated and, in some cases, detained in internment camps pursuant to directives of United States military forces during World War II and other associated actions of the Federal Government; and

(3) no sufficient inquiry has been made into the matters described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) It is the purpose of this Act to establish a commission to—

(1) review the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order Numbered 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and the impact of such Executive order on American citizens and permanent resident aliens;

(2) review directives of United States military forces requiring the relocation and, in some cases, detention in internment camps of American citizens, including Aleut civilians, and permanent resident aliens of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands; and

(3) recommend appropriate remedies.

3 CFR,
1938-1943
Comp., p. 1092.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION

50 USC app. 1981
note.

SEC. 3. (a) There is established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

(b) The Commission shall be composed of seven members, who shall be appointed within ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act as follows:

(1) Three members shall be appointed by the President.

(2) Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Membership.

(3) the lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery and the discrimination described in paragraphs (1) and (2) on living African-Americans and on society in the United States;

(4) the manner in which textual and digital instructional resources and technologies are being used to deny the inhumanity of slavery and the crime against humanity of people of African descent in the United States;

(5) the role of Northern complicity in the Southern based institution of slavery;

(6) the direct benefits to societal institutions, public and private, including higher education, corporations, religious and associational;

(7) and thus, recommend appropriate ways to educate the American public of the Commission's findings;

(8) and thus, recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the Commission's findings on the matters described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6); and

(9) submit to the Congress the results of such examination, together with such recommendations.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND DUTIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans, hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

(b) DUTIES.—The Commission shall perform the following duties:

(1) Identify, compile and synthesize the relevant corpus of evidentiary documentation of the institution of slavery which existed within the United States and the colonies that became the United States from 1619 through 1865. The Commission's documentation and examination shall include but not be limited to the facts related to—

(A) the capture and procurement of Africans;

(B) the transport of Africans to the United States and the colonies that became the United States for the purpose of enslavement, including their treatment during transport;

(C) the sale and acquisition of Africans as chattel property in interstate and intrastate commerce;

(D) the treatment of African slaves in the colonies and the United States, including the deprivation of their freedom, exploitation of their labor, and destruction of their culture, language, religion, and families; and

(E) the extensive denial of humanity, sexual abuse and the chattelization of persons.

(2) The role which the Federal and State governments of the United States supported the institution of slavery in constitutional and statutory provisions, including the extent to which such governments prevented, opposed, or restricted efforts of formerly enslaved Africans and their descendants to repatriate to their homeland.

(3) The Federal and State laws that discriminated against formerly enslaved Africans and their descendants who were deemed United States citizens from 1868 to the present.



HR 40 2019-2020

CHAPTER 4.5. Reparations for the Institution of Slavery Article 1. Findings and Declarations

8301. (a) The Legislature makes the following findings and declarations:

(1) More than 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865, inclusive.

(2) The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the United States from 1789 through 1865, inclusive.

(3) The slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of Africans' life, liberty, African citizenship rights, and cultural heritage and denied them the fruits of their own labor.

(4) A preponderance of scholarly, legal, and community evidentiary documentation, as well as popular culture markers, constitute the basis for inquiry into the ongoing effects of the institution of slavery and its legacy of persistent systemic structures of discrimination on living African Americans and society in the United States.

(5) Following the abolition of slavery, the United States government at the federal, state, and local levels continued to perpetuate, condone, and often profit from practices that continued to brutalize and disadvantage African Americans, including sharecropping, convict leasing, Jim Crow laws, redlining, unequal education, and disproportionate treatment at the hands of the criminal justice system.

(6) As a result of the historic and continued discrimination, African Americans continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(A) Having nearly 1,000,000 black people incarcerated.

(B) An unemployment rate more than twice the current white unemployment rate.

(C) An average of less than one-sixteenth of the wealth of white families, a disparity that has worsened, not improved, over time.

(b) It is the purpose of this chapter to establish a task force that will do all of the following:

(1) Study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans as a result of:

(A) The institution of slavery, including both the transatlantic and domestic "trade" that existed from 1565 in colonial Florida and from 1619 to 1865, inclusive, within the other colonies that became the United States, and that included the federal and state governments, that constitutionally and statutorily supported the institution of slavery.

(B) The de jure and de facto discrimination against freed slaves and their descendants from the end of the Civil War to the present, including economic, political, educational, and social discrimination.

(C) The lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery and the discrimination described in paragraphs (5) and (6) of subdivision (a) on living African Americans and on society in California and the United States.

(D) The manner in which instructional resources and technologies are being used to deny the inhumanity of slavery and the crime against humanity of people of African descent in California and the United States.

(E) The role of Northern complicity in the Southern-based institution of slavery.

(F) The direct benefits to societal institutions, public and private, including higher education, corporate, religious, and associational.

(2) Recommend appropriate ways to educate the California public of the task force's findings.

(3) Recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the task force's findings on the matters described in this section.

(4) Submit to the Legislature the report completed pursuant to Section 8301.1, together with any recommendations.

Article 2. Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans

8301.1. (a) There is hereby established the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans (Task Force).

(b) The Task Force shall perform all of the following duties:

(1) Identify, compile, and synthesize the relevant corpus of evidentiary documentation of the institution of slavery that existed within the United States and the colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865, inclusive. The Task Force's documentation and examination shall include the facts related to all of the following:

(A) The capture and procurement of Africans.



AB 3121

as introduced

2/21/20





REPORT | APRIL 9, 2015



A Rising Share of the U.S. Black Population Is Foreign Born

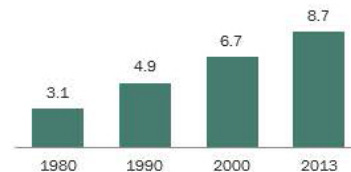
9 Percent Are Immigrants; and While Most Are from the Caribbean, Africans Drive Recent Growth

BY MONICA ANDERSON

Overview

Immigrants Are a Growing Share Among Black Americans ...

% of U.S. black population that is foreign born





Amendments proposed:

1. Add language explicating california's commitment to and support for federal-level reparations legislation.

2. Make clear that this and any further state level reparations actions are by no means a replacement for federal-level reparations legislation, and shall not be interpreted as such.

3. Replace all references to 'african-american' or 'black' americans with 'american descendants of slavery' or 'black american descendants of persons enslaved in the united states'.

4. Current language: at minimum, four appointees shall represent major civil society and reparations organizations that have historically championed the cause of reparatory justice.

a. Add, "and, leading and active reparations organizations"

5. Current language: members shall be drawn from diverse backgrounds to represent the interests of communities of color throughout the state, have experience working to implement racial justice reform, and, to the extent possible, represent geographically diverse areas of the state.

a. Replace 'communities of color' with 'american descendants of slavery' or ' black americans descended from persons enslaved in the u.s.'

6. Add language restricting task force membership to black american descendants of persons enslaved in the u.s.

7. Add language requiring the california legislature to act on any subsequent proposals for reparatory action based on the findings of the task force.

Article 2. Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans *Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States*

8301.1. (a) There is hereby established the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans *Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States* (Task Force).

Article 6. *Reparations*

8301.5. *Any state level reparation actions that are undertaken as a result of this chapter are not a replacement for any reparations enacted at the federal level, and shall not be interpreted as such.*

Article 2. Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States

8301.1. (a) There is hereby established the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States (Task Force).

(b) The Task Force shall perform all of the following duties:





Angela



Marcus Champion



Maureen Simmons



Dr. Kayla Harris



crivera-herandez



Tiffany Quarles

Jessica Devence...

Article 2. Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States

8301.1. (a) There is hereby established the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States (Task Force).

Thank You!

#LineageMatters

