
By: **Senators Blount, Kelley, Lawlah, Currie, Mitchell, Conway, Exum,
Hughes, and McFadden**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2000

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Coordinate the Study, Commemoration, and Impact of**
3 **Slavery's History and Legacy in Maryland**

4 FOR the purpose of creating the Commission to Coordinate the Study,
5 Commemoration, and Impact of Slavery's History and Legacy in Maryland;
6 providing for the purposes of the Commission; providing for the membership of
7 the Commission and their appointment, terms, and compensation; providing for
8 the staffing of the Commission; requiring the members to be appointed on or
9 before a certain date; providing for the staggering of their terms; and generally
10 relating to the Commission to Coordinate the Study, Commemoration, and
11 Impact of Slavery's History and Legacy in Maryland.

12 BY adding to
13 Article - State Government
14 Section 9-701 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 7. Commission to
15 Coordinate the Study, Commemoration, and Impact of Slavery's History
16 and Legacy in Maryland"
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1999 Replacement Volume)

19 Preamble

20 WHEREAS, Millions of Africans were forcibly brought into Maryland from the
21 17th through the 19th centuries and subjected to unparalleled suffering and death, in
22 order to provide the means for economic and social development for the lives of others
23 in the State; and

24 WHEREAS, The impact of this unparalleled suffering on those people and on
25 their African American descendants, as well as on the social development of
26 Maryland, generally remains inadequately researched and taught; and

27 WHEREAS, A mechanism is needed to network museums, cultural
28 organizations, cultural parks and centers, and private collections in order to support

1 the cataloging, preservation, and presentation of cultural resources relative to the
2 history and legacy of slavery in Maryland; and

3 WHEREAS, An entity is needed to work with grass roots organizations,
4 foundations, and government agencies in publicizing and seeking support for
5 initiatives relating to the history and legacy of slavery, with special attention to the
6 development of initiatives aimed at and benefitting Maryland youth; and

7 WHEREAS, The State needs to target funding for the identification and
8 maintenance of library and archival resources relevant to the history and legacy of
9 slavery, in order to produce guides and maintain on-line databases of relevant
10 holdings, especially holdings not appropriately cataloged and documented; and

11 WHEREAS, There needs to be an aggressive, racially inclusive campaign in
12 Maryland to identify historical sites throughout the State that relate to the history
13 and legacy of slavery - including historically African American communities that
14 developed as a result of slavery, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow practices - and to
15 monitor the preservation and development of those sites; and

16 WHEREAS, There needs to be an entity in Maryland that will keep the State
17 informed of how best to support programs and initiatives to commemorate the middle
18 passage, slavery, indentured servitude, and the underground railroad; and

19 WHEREAS, There needs to be an entity in Maryland that can keep the State
20 informed of the latest research on the lingering psychological, sociological, and
21 economic impacts of slavery and its legacy, including the impact on crime and crime
22 control; and

23 WHEREAS, There needs to be an entity in Maryland to work cooperatively
24 with private and public tourist agencies and organizations to oversee and monitor the
25 allocation of public resources to sites and undertakings relating to the history and
26 legacy of slavery in Maryland, and ensure that there is a fair allocation of resources
27 for African American businesses and institutions; now, therefore,

28 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
29 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

30 **Article - State Government**

31 **SUBTITLE 7. COMMISSION TO COORDINATE THE STUDY, COMMEMORATION, AND**
32 **IMPACT OF SLAVERY'S HISTORY AND LEGACY IN MARYLAND.**

33 9-701.

34 (A) THERE IS A COMMISSION TO COORDINATE THE STUDY, COMMEMORATION,
35 AND IMPACT OF SLAVERY'S HISTORY AND LEGACY IN MARYLAND.

36 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO:

- 1 (1) NETWORK MUSEUMS, CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, CULTURAL
2 PARKS AND CENTERS, AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE
3 CATALOGING, PRESERVATION, AND PRESENTATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
4 RELATIVE TO THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND;
- 5 (2) WORK WITH GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND
6 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN PUBLICIZING AND SEEKING SUPPORT FOR INITIATIVES
7 RELATING TO THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF SLAVERY, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO
8 THE DEVELOPMENT OF INITIATIVES AIMED AT AND BENEFITTING MARYLAND
9 YOUTH;
- 10 (3) TARGET FUNDING FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
11 LIBRARY AND ARCHIVAL RESOURCES RELEVANT TO THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF
12 SLAVERY, IN ORDER TO PRODUCE GUIDES AND MAINTAIN ON-LINE DATABASES OF
13 RELEVANT HOLDINGS, ESPECIALLY HOLDINGS NOT APPROPRIATELY CATALOGED
14 AND DOCUMENTED;
- 15 (4) IDENTIFY HISTORICAL SITES THROUGHOUT THE STATE THAT
16 RELATE TO THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF SLAVERY AND MONITOR THE
17 PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE SITES;
- 18 (5) KEEP THE STATE INFORMED OF HOW BEST TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS
19 AND INITIATIVES TO COMMEMORATE THE MIDDLE PASSAGE, SLAVERY, INDENTURED
20 SERVITUDE, AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD;
- 21 (6) KEEP THE STATE INFORMED OF THE LATEST RESEARCH ON THE
22 LINGERING PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF SLAVERY
23 AND ITS LEGACY, INCLUDING THE IMPACT ON CRIME AND CRIME CONTROL; AND
- 24 (7) WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC TOURIST
25 AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO OVERSEE AND MONITOR THE ALLOCATION OF
26 PUBLIC RESOURCES TO SITES AND UNDERTAKINGS RELATING TO THE HISTORY AND
27 LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND, AND ENSURE THAT THERE IS A FAIR
28 ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN BUSINESSES AND
29 INSTITUTIONS.
- 30 (C) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 11 MEMBERS.
- 31 (D) THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION INCLUDES:
- 32 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE
33 PRESIDENT;
- 34 (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
35 SPEAKER;
- 36 (3) THE STATE ARCHIVIST OR A DESIGNEE OF THE STATE ARCHIVIST;
- 37 (4) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST; AND

1 (5) THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

2 (I) TWO HISTORIANS WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT
3 MARYLAND HISTORY, AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE MIDDLE PASSAGE, SLAVERY,
4 RECONSTRUCTION, AND THE JIM CROW ERA;

5 (II) TWO ANTHROPOLOGISTS OR SOCIOLOGISTS WHO ARE
6 KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY;

7 (III) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN
8 ORGANIZATIONS; AND

9 (IV) A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WHO SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIR
10 OF THE COMMISSION.

11 (E) (1) THE TERM OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION IS 4
12 YEARS.

13 (2) THE TERMS OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE
14 STAGGERED AS PROVIDED ON OCTOBER 1, 2000.

15 (3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A
16 SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

17 (4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES
18 ONLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED
19 AND QUALIFIES.

20 (F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

21 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
22 COMMISSION; BUT

23 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
24 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

25 (G) THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST AND THE STATE ARCHIVES SHALL
26 PROVIDE FOR THE STAFFING OF THE COMMISSION.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the initial appointed
28 members of the Commission shall be appointed on or before October 1, 2000.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the members of the
30 Commission appointed on or before October 1, 2000 shall be appointed to the
31 following terms:

32 (1) three, including the individual appointed to chair the Commission,
33 shall serve for 4 years;

34 (2) three shall serve for 3 years;

1 (3) three shall serve for 2 years; and

2 (4) two shall serve for 1 year.

3 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 July 1, 2000.