

BY: Delegate Flanagan

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

(First Reading File Joint Resolution)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after “Genocide” insert “and Apology for Slavery”; in line 3, strike “and”; and in line 4, before the period insert “; requesting the Governor of Maryland to apologize on behalf of the citizens of Maryland for the State's history of slavery, its long-held silence in the face of slavery, and the atrocities committed under slavery in the State; and requesting the Governor to issue the apology on the 139th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 5, after the semicolon insert “and

WHEREAS, There were slaves in Maryland from the time that the colony was founded, and historians recognize that the earliest slave was brought to Maryland in the 1630s; and

WHEREAS, A 1663 law stated that unless a black man could prove that he had contracted his labor, he was presumed to be a slave in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, Slaveholding grew by significant proportions in the 1690s, so that while slaves made up only 3 percent of the population of the colony in 1658, their numbers grew to 15 to 25 percent of the populations of the various counties in 1710; and

WHEREAS, The growth of the tobacco trade in Maryland, and Maryland’s resulting wealth, was heavily dependent on the importation and use of slaves; and

WHEREAS, Historians recognize that, among the American colonies, only Virginia imported more slaves than Maryland; and

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WHEREAS, As in other states, slaves in Maryland were whipped and grossly mistreated, with large numbers of slaves forced to suffer from terrible respiratory and other ailments for which they were offered little treatment; and

WHEREAS, Husbands and wives were torn apart and their children were ripped from their families, as all were sold within the chains of slavery; and

WHEREAS, In the 1820s slaveholding continued to flourish in Maryland, despite the efforts of abolitionists who held antislavery meetings in Baltimore and Hagerstown, presented an antislavery petition to the General Assembly, and convinced one Baltimore newspaper to refuse the advertisements of slave dealers; and

WHEREAS, Although slaveholding in Maryland began a gradual decline after 1810, with the slave population dropping from 111,500 in 1810 to 102,400 in 1830, Marylanders still owned 87,189 slaves in 1860; and

WHEREAS, From 1830 on, despite this drop in the overall number of slaves, Maryland remained the northernmost slaveholding state; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly responded to the increasing numbers of freed blacks in the 1830s by restricting the activities of blacks and establishing a State board to oversee “the Removal of Coloured People”, the repatriation of freed blacks to Africa; and

WHEREAS, Militant slaveholders lobbied the General Assembly in 1860 to strengthen slavery, end manumission, and forbid blacks from peddling, traveling, holding their own church services, or having their own schools; and

WHEREAS, Baltimoreans rioted on April 19, 1861, in opposition to the movement of Union troop through Baltimore on their way from Philadelphia to Washington; and

WHEREAS, As many as 23,000 Maryland men officially served in the Confederate Army, and as many as 62,000 Maryland men later claimed to be veterans of the Confederacy;”;

and after line 11, insert:

“RESOLVED, That the Governor of Maryland is requested to apologize on behalf of the citizens of Maryland for the State's history of slavery, its long-held silence in the face of slavery, and the atrocities committed under slavery in the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Governor is requested to issue the apology on September 22, 2001, the 139th anniversary of the issuance by President Abraham Lincoln of the Emancipation Proclamation; and be it further”.