

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Joint Resolution 7 (Senator Exum, *et al.*)
Judicial Proceedings

Reparations for the Enslavement of African Americans

This joint resolution supports H.R. 40, pending in the U.S. House of Representatives, which acknowledges the fundamental injustice and inhumanity of slavery and establishes a commission to consider reparations for African Americans and to educate Americans about the history of slavery and its current repercussions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with this joint resolution would not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The federal Civil Liberties Act of 1998 authorized reparations on behalf of Japanese-American citizens who were put into internment camps by the U.S. government during World War II.

Background: In 1947, Congress established the Indian Claims Commission to hear claims and compensate native American tribes who had been deprived of their land by the U.S. government. The U.S. government has also awarded reparations to survivors and their heirs of the "Tuskegee Study," in which the U.S. Public Health Service conducted a nontherapeutic study of the progression of syphilis in African-American

males for 40 years without informing its subjects that a cure for the disease had been found.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SJ 4 of 2004, an identical resolution, received a hearing by the Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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mp/jr

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