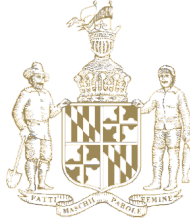


MARLON AMPREY  
Legislative District 40  
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8, 2023

**Testimony of Delegate Amprey in Support of House Bill 49:**

Dear Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

African Americans have, for the entire history of this country and a majority of the existence of the State of Maryland, faced a tax system that disproportionately impacted African American taxpayers. Although conditions have improved somewhat, the effects of prior disparate impact continue. From Reconstruction until the passage and implementation of federal Civil Rights laws, Black Marylanders paid equal taxes but failed to receive equal access to opportunity and resources provided by the state. For too many decades, the aftereffects of prior State sponsored discrimination against African Americans in Maryland have continued to afflict and stifle Maryland's Black communities. Even in 2023, the disparities observed in the 1950s and 1960s are still very much present in the communities across the State trying to break free from years of systemic oppression.

House Bill 49 requires establishing the Commission for Economic Justice and Reconciliation to study racial disparities in wealth and resources as a result of tax laws and systems in place in the State from the Reconstruction Era through the enactment and full implementation of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; requiring the Commission to make recommendations relating to compensation of the State's African American communities for the racial disparities identified, to study possible sources of State funding, and to make recommendations for future legislation. The funding will then be utilized to provide equitable economic opportunities to close the racial wealth gap for Black Marylanders.

Therefore, the goal is to create a commission of academia, historians, economists, and legal scholars to study the effects and ways in which the black community was taxed and was not given equal resources and to study the economic impact of segregation and racist laws on the Black community and determine how to provide restitution to the affected communities and families.

**I urge a favorable report on House Bill 159.**

Respectfully,

Delegate Marlon Amprey, 40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District - MD