

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for H.R. 40 of the 116th United States Congress and reaffirming this
2 state's opposition to racial discrimination; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, millions of Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States
4 and the 13 American colonies, including the Georgia colony and the State of Georgia, from
5 1619 through 1865; and

6 WHEREAS, slavery in America resembled no other form of involuntary servitude known
7 in history, as Africans were captured and sold at auction like inanimate objects or animals;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Africans forced into slavery were brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, and
10 subjected to the indignity of being stripped of their names and heritage; and

11 WHEREAS, enslaved families were torn apart after having been sold separately from one
12 another; and

13 WHEREAS, the laws and institutions of this state supported and advanced the system of
14 slavery and the visceral racism against persons of African descent; and

15 WHEREAS, slavery was not officially abolished until the passage of the 13th Amendment
16 to the United States Constitution in 1865 after the end of the Civil War; and

17 WHEREAS, after emancipation from 246 years of slavery, African Americans soon saw the
18 fleeting political, social, and economic gains they made during Reconstruction eviscerated
19 by virulent racism, lynchings, disenfranchisement, Black Codes, and racial segregation laws
20 that imposed a rigid system of officially sanctioned racial segregation in virtually all areas
21 of life; and

22 WHEREAS, the system of de jure racial segregation known as "Jim Crow," which was
23 supported and advanced by the laws and institutions of this state following the Civil War to
24 create separate and unequal societies for whites and African Americans, was a direct result
25 of the racism against persons of African descent engendered by slavery; and

26 WHEREAS, a century after the official end of slavery in America, federal action was
27 required during the 1960s to eliminate the de jure and de facto system of Jim Crow
28 throughout parts of the nation, though its vestiges still linger to this day; and

29 WHEREAS, the story of the enslavement and de jure segregation of African Americans and
30 the dehumanizing atrocities committed against them should not be purged from or minimized
31 in the telling of American history; and

32 WHEREAS, on December 9, 2015, while commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 13th
33 Amendment, President Barack Obama observed that "the issue of chattel slavery seems so
34 simple, so obvious – it is wrong in every sense . . . Tearing husband from wife, parent from
35 child; stripped and sold to the highest bidder; shackled in chains and bloodied with the whip.

36 It's antithetical not only to our conception of human rights and dignity, but to our conception
37 of ourselves – a people founded on the premise that all are created equal"; and

38 WHEREAS, on July 8, 2003, during a trip to Goree Island, Senegal, a former slave port,
39 President George W. Bush acknowledged slavery's continuing legacy in American life and
40 the need to confront that legacy when he stated that slavery "was . . . one of the greatest
41 crimes of history . . . The racial bigotry fed by slavery did not end with slavery or with
42 segregation. And many of the issues that still trouble America have roots in the bitter
43 experience of other times. But however long the journey, our destiny is set: liberty and
44 justice for all"; and

45 WHEREAS, to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of
46 slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865, a federal
47 commission needs to be established to study and consider proposals for reparations for the
48 institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and defacto racial and economic discrimination
49 against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to
50 make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
52 the members of this body reaffirm their opposition to racial discrimination.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia House of Representatives hereby expresses
54 support for H.R. 40 of the 116th United States Congress which would create the Commission
55 to Study and Develop Reparation Proposal for African Americans.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
57 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to each
58 member of the Georgia congressional delegation, the public, and the press.