



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 1422

Delegate McCaskill
et. al.

HB 1422 – State Government – Maryland Reparations Commission

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 1422 - State Government - Maryland Reparations Commission, aims to establish a commission to study and recommend benefits for African Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) in Maryland. The established Commission will comprise representatives from various organizations, including the Maryland Comptroller and state archivists, as well as appointed members such as a mental health specialist, a civil justice attorney, and two members of the general public. The Commission's recommendations will focus on evaluating lineage and verifying eligibility for reparations, as well as assessing the monetary compensation for reparations in Maryland.

Prince George's County has long been a leader in advancing racial equity and economic justice, and we recognize that structural barriers—such as housing discrimination, wealth gaps, and unequal access to education and healthcare—have disproportionately impacted Black Marylanders. HB 1422 will allow the state to take a data-driven, community-informed approach to evaluating lineage-based eligibility, considering monetary and non-monetary reparative solutions, and identifying ways to promote economic mobility and justice for ADOS residents. The Maryland Reparations Commission, as outlined in the legislation, will bring together experts in economic justice, mental health, legal advocacy, and state governance, ensuring a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary examination of how best to implement reparative measures. The inclusion of state archivists, civil rights attorneys, and community representatives further strengthens the Commission's ability to make well-researched, historically grounded recommendations.

HB 1422 is in line with national efforts to address historical injustices, where reparative programs have been enacted to address racial wealth disparities. By establishing the Maryland Reparations Commission, our state has an opportunity to be at the forefront of efforts to redress the economic and social consequences of slavery and build a more just and equitable future for all residents.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS** HB 1422 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Evans & Associates
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

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