



Senator Steven Bradford

REPRESENTING THE 35TH DISTRICT

SB 1403 – CA American Freedman Affairs Agency

SUMMARY

SB 1403 would establish the California American Freedman Affairs Agency for the purpose of implementation, oversight, and monitoring of the policies and laws enacted relating to reparations.

BACKGROUND

Existing law established the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans (Task Force), with a special consideration for African Americans who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States.

Existing law required the Task Force, among other things, to identify, compile, and synthesize the relevant corpus of evidentiary documentation of the institution of slavery that existed within the United States and the colonies, as specified, and to recommend the form of compensation that should be awarded, the instrumentalities through which it should be awarded, and who should be eligible for this compensation, as well as various other policy recommendations.

PROBLEM

Even though California entered the Union in 1850 as a “free state,” the state government at the time nonetheless permitted and committed grave injustices against African Americans. These injustices included enslavement, legal public and private segregation, discrimination in state funding and programming, and stigmatization.

On June 29, 2023, the Task Force issued its final report to the California Legislature. The final report documents the ongoing and compounding harms experienced by African Americans as a result of slavery and its lingering effects on American society today, and proposes various reparations proposals.

The Task Force recommended the Legislature create an agency that is dedicated to the implementation and success of the recommendations of the final report. In addition, the Task Force recommended that the Legislature provide the agency with an oversight role to ensure that existing state agencies properly implement the legislative enactments resulting from the Task Force’s recommendations.

Finally, the Task Force recommended this agency include various offices to assist with implementation and oversight, including a genealogy office, among others.

SOLUTION

SB 1403 would establish the California American Freedman Affairs Agency. The bill would require the agency to implement any recommendations of the Task Force or other proposals, as approved by the Legislature and the Governor.

SB 1403 would also require the agency to oversee and monitor existing state agencies and departments tasked with engaging in direct implementation of the policies that fall within the scope of the existing state agencies and departments’ authority.

SUPPORT

- ACLU California Action
- Africatown Coalition
- American Redress Coalition of California
- BAMBD CDC
- Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative
- Black Reparations Project
- California Black Health Network
- California Black Lineage Society
- Coalition for a Just and Equitable California
- Collaborising
- Emend the Mass Media Group
- Lineage Equity and Advancement Project
- National Volunteer Council on Freedman Affairs



Reparation Generation
Western Center on Law and Poverty

CONTACT

Carolyn McIntyre, Chief of Staff
Office of Senator Steven Bradford
1021 O St. Building, Suite 7210
(916) 651-4035
Carolyn.McIntyre@sen.ca.gov

Chris Morales, Legislative Director
Office of Senator Steven Bradford
1021 O St. Building, Suite 7210
(916) 651-4035
Christopher.Morales@sen.ca.gov