

2001 - 2002 LEGISLATURE
January 2002 Special Session

LRBb2698/1
PJD:.....

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 60,
TO ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO ASSEMBLY BILL 1

March 14, 2002 – Offered by Representatives MORRIS-TATUM, YOUNG, WILLIAMS,
TURNER and COGGS.

1 At the locations indicated, amend the substitute amendment as follows:

2 **1.** Page 359, line 1: after that line insert:

3 “(3zx) URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT H.R. 40 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 107TH
4 CONGRESS, WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THE FUNDAMENTAL INJUSTICE, CRUELTY, BRUTALITY, AND
5 INHUMANITY OF SLAVERY AND ESTABLISHES A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE INSTITUTION OF
6 SLAVERY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS ON APPROPRIATE REMEDIES.

7 (a) The legislature finds that:

8 1. Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in
9 the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865.

10 2. The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by
11 the government of the United States from 1789 to 1865.

1 3. In 1865, the Freedmen’s Bureau, created by the government to help newly
2 freed slaves, pledged 40–acre parcels and the loan of a federal mule to work the land,
3 but President Andrew Johnson reneged on the pledge.

4 4. The slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and
5 inhumane deprivation of Africans’ life, liberty, citizenship rights, and cultural
6 heritage, and denied them the fruits of their own labor.

7 5. Sufficient inquiry has not been made into the effects of the institution of
8 slavery on living African–Americans and society in the United States.

9 6. H.R. 40 establishes a commission to:

10 “a. examine the institution of slavery which existed from 1619 through 1865
11 within the United States and the colonies that became the United States, including
12 the extent to which the Federal and State Governments constitutionally and
13 statutorily supported the institution of slavery;

14 b. examine de jure and de facto discrimination against freed slaves and their
15 descendants from the end of the Civil War to the present, including economic,
16 political, and social discrimination;

17 c. examine the lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery and the
18 discrimination described in paragraph b. on living African–Americans and on society
19 in the United States;

20 d. recommend appropriate ways to educate the American public of the
21 Commission’s findings;

22 e. recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the Commission’s
23 findings on the matters described in paragraphs a. and b.; and

24 f. submit to the Congress the results of such examination, together with such
25 recommendations”.

1 7. California has enacted chapter 934, statutes of 2000, which directs the
2 California commissioner of insurance to investigate and report to the California
3 legislature and the public all records of insurance companies regarding slaveholder
4 insurance policies, and determine whether the insurers profited from slavery.

5 8. National Reparations Convention was held this year in Chicago at which,
6 according to the *Wisconsin State Journal* of February 11, 2001, convention
7 participants joined a growing group of academics, activists, and governmental
8 officials who believe that repaying African–Americans for the 246 years of unpaid
9 labor of their ancestors could relieve poverty and hopelessness among modern–day
10 African–Americans.

11 9. It was reported in the *Wisconsin State Journal* of February 11, 2001, that one
12 reason why people are now willing to talk about reparations may be that other groups
13 victimized because of their religion, skin color, or nationality have won apologies and
14 even cash payments for their suffering.

15 10. A letter of formal apology and \$20,000 were given by the U.S. government
16 to each Japanese–American held in internment camps during World War II.

17 11. Austria has established a \$380,000,000 fund to compensate Nazi–era slave
18 laborers.

19 12. It was reported in the *National Post* of September 23, 2000, that some of
20 Germany’s largest corporations agreed to pay billions of dollars in reparations to
21 individuals enslaved in their factories during World War II and that the Anglican
22 Church in Canada faces bankruptcy as a result of claims arising from aboriginals
23 who were abused in church homes.

