

By The Senate of the State of Florida

619-05383-08

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1 Senate Concurrent Resolution

2 A concurrent resolution expressing profound regret for the  
3 involuntary servitude of Africans and calling for  
4 reconciliation among all Floridians.

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6 WHEREAS, African slavery was sanctioned and enforced through  
7 laws enacted by Florida's first Territorial Legislative Council  
8 in 1822, and

9 WHEREAS, the Council and its successors did, over four  
10 decades, construct a legal framework that perpetuated African  
11 slavery in one of its most brutal and dehumanizing forms, and

12 WHEREAS, this legal framework included such lawful  
13 punishments as the following: "That any negro or other slave duly  
14 convicted of robbery...or burglary shall suffer death or have his  
15 or her ears nailed to posts and there stand for one hour and  
16 receive 30 lashes on his or her bare back at the discretion of  
17 the court," and

18 WHEREAS, in 1827, free Africans were denied the right to  
19 vote and in later years were, by law, so repressed, restricted,  
20 and harassed that by 1850 most had been driven from Florida, and

21 WHEREAS, African slavery was entrenched within the  
22 plantation culture of Middle Florida to such a degree that by the  
23 year 1860, 73 percent of the total population of Leon County were  
24 slaves, and

25 WHEREAS, there were early political leaders in Florida who  
26 advocated a vigorous defense of slavery, and

27 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has identified grave  
28 injustices inflicted upon African slaves and freemen by the  
29 state, and

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30 WHEREAS, even though the laws permitting such injustices  
31 have been repealed, it is important that the Legislature express  
32 profound regret for the shameful chapter in this state's history  
33 and, in so doing, promote healing and reconciliation among all  
34 Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

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36 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida, the House  
37 of Representatives Concurring:

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39 That the Legislature expresses its profound regret for  
40 Florida's role in sanctioning and perpetuating involuntary  
41 servitude upon generations of African slaves.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature calls for  
43 healing and reconciliation among all residents of the state.