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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 138

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 13, 2010

Supporting and calling upon the Governor of Virginia to encourage and promote the preservation of the historic site of Lumpkin's Slave Jail and slave burial ground in Richmond's Shockoe Bottom. Report.

Patrons—McQuinn and McClellan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the "peculiar institution," which resulted from the greatest forced migration of a people in history, began in the first permanent English colony in America; and

WHEREAS, Antebellum Richmond was a significant participant in the daily commerce of enslaved Africans who were held in slave jails, holding areas, auction houses, and other facilities located in the City of Richmond's Shockoe Bottom; and

WHEREAS, slavery became essential to the economy of Virginia and the South, and over time became a great source of national division and strife and, ultimately, the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the social and cultural effects of slavery continue to beset the descendants of all Americans, and its legacy is all too often evident in public policies, our educational, social, and economic systems, and the common discourse and relationships among citizens; and

WHEREAS, open and honest dialogue and understanding are instrumental to reconciliation, restoration, and healing; and

WHEREAS, Lumpkin's Slave Jail, which once was the site of cruel and degrading confinement of enslaved Africans and later became the birthplace of Virginia Union University, the first institution of higher education for freed slaves in the South, may become, with its stark symbolism, the pivotal site for the continuing work of reconciliation, restoration, and healing; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of the historic site on which Lumpkin's Slave Jail once sat and the slave burial grounds are located should be encouraged to enable the erection of appropriate memorials, commemorative signage, interpretive markers, memorable landscapes, and buildings designed for multiple purposes to accommodate historic collections and scholarly repositories, researchers, scholars, school children, visitors, and the public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly support the preservation of the historic site of Lumpkin's Slave Jail and slave burial ground in Richmond's Shockoe Bottom; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Governor be called upon to encourage and promote the preservation of the historic site of Lumpkin's Slave Jail and slave burial ground in Richmond's Shockoe Bottom, including the erection of appropriate memorials, commemorative signage, interpretive markers, memorable landscapes, and buildings designed for multiple purposes to accommodate historic collections and scholarly repositories, researchers, scholars, school children, visitors, and the public.

The Governor or his designee shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary and report of his progress in meeting the request of this resolution no later than the first day of the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary and report shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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