S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

5646

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 26, 2009

Introduced by Sen. PERKINS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend chapter 137 of the laws of 1817 relating to slaves and servants, in relation to acknowledging the tragedy of slavery in New York state

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 137 of the laws of 1817 relating to slaves and servants is amended by adding a new section XXXII-a to read as follows:

S XXXII-A. ACKNOWLEDGES THAT SLAVERY, THE TRANSATLANTIC AND THE DOMESTIC SLAVE TRADE WERE APPALLING TRAGEDIES IN THE HISTORY OF NEW YORK STATE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR ABHORRENT BARBARISM BUT ALSO IN TERMS OF THEIR MAGNITUDE, ORGANIZED NATURE AND ESPECIALLY THEIR NEGATION OF THE HUMANITY OF THE ENSLAVED PERSON. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE INSTITUTIONS OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE IN ENSLAVED PERSONS ARE NOW AND SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE BEEN CRIMES AGAINST THIS STATE AS WELL AS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK FORMALLY APOLOGIZES FOR ITS ROLE IN SANCTIONING, EXPLOITING AND PERPETUATING SLAVERY AND ITS VESTIGES, INCLUDING THE ENACTMENT OF SLAVE CODES THAT CREATED THE EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OF CHILDREN, AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THEIR FAMILIES AS PERSONIFIED BY THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SOJOURNER TRUTH.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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