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

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2975

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 21, 2011
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Introduced by M. of A. WRIGHT, ROBINSON, PERRY, GOTTFRIED, JEFFRIES,
  CAHILL, MILLMAN, ROSENTHAL, ORTIZ, CAMARA, BENEDETTO, J. RIVERA,
  BOYLAND, COOK, LAVINE, PEOPLES-STOKES, BARRON, PRETLOW, CLARK --
  Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A.   BRENNAN, FARRELL, GLICK, GUNTHER,
  MAGEE, MAISEL, McENENY, MORELLE, O'DONNELL, PHEFFER, SCARBOROUGH,
  SWEENEY, TITUS, TOWNS, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the
  Committee on Judiciary

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 ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

 1   Section 1. Chapter 137 of the laws of 1817 relating to slaves and
 2 servants is amended by adding a new section XXXII-a to read as follows:
 3   S XXXII-A.   ACKNOWLEDGES THAT SLAVERY, THE TRANSATLANTIC AND THE
 4 DOMESTIC SLAVE TRADE WERE APPALLING TRAGEDIES IN THE HISTORY OF NEW YORK
 5 STATE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR ABHORRENT BARBARISM BUT ALSO IN TERMS OF
 6 THEIR MAGNITUDE, ORGANIZED NATURE AND ESPECIALLY THEIR NEGATION OF THE
 7 HUMANITY OF THE ENSLAVED PERSON. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
 8 FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE INSTITUTIONS OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE
 9 TRADE IN ENSLAVED PERSONS ARE NOW AND SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE BEEN CRIMES
10 AGAINST THIS STATE AS WELL AS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. THE GOVERNMENT OF
11 THE   STATE   OF NEW YORK FORMALLY APOLOGIZES FOR ITS ROLE IN SANCTIONING,
12 EXPLOITING AND PERPETUATING SLAVERY AND ITS VESTIGES, INCLUDING THE
13 ENACTMENT OF SLAVE CODES THAT CREATED THE EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OF
14 CHILDREN, AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THEIR FAMILIES AS PERSONIFIED BY THE
15 LIFE AND LEGACY OF SOJOURNER TRUTH.
16   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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