

Slavery study

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'We want to find out what really happened to African Americans and what vestiges of slavery remain with us today,' said Anderson Thompson, director of research for the project.

The study will address the impact of politics, economics, education and societal issues on the Transatlantic slave trade and slavery by examining the institution of slavery from 1619 to 1865, federal and state government support of slavery and discrimination by law in the public and private sectors against free Africans.

The study will explore how slavery functioned, its lingering effects, as well as the system and process of the capture, procurement and treatment of enslaved Africans, Thompson said.

The commission will be dissolved after it reports its findings to the General Assembly in the spring.

State Senator Donne Trotter said six months may not be enough time for researchers to complete the study.

'The resolution is not set in stone. We can extend it,' Trotter said.

Conrad Worrill, national chairman of the National Black United Front and director of the Center for Inner City Studies, said he expects the study will show that black Americans are suffering a form of post-traumatic stress syndrome as a result of the slave trade.

The negative effects of slavery are still felt by African-Americans who are economically and socially disadvantaged and are discriminated against continually by unequal access to education and health care, said State Senator Mattie Hunter, senate sponsor of the resolution.

Rep. Eddie Washington was the House sponsor.

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