

HOUSE BILL 1417

Q7
HB 49/23 – HGO

4lr1299

By: **Delegate Amprey**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Justice and Racial Reconciliation Act**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission for Economic Justice and Racial
4 Reconciliation to study racial disparities in wealth and resources as a result of tax
5 laws and systems in place in the State during a certain period of time; and generally
6 relating to the Commission for Economic Justice and Racial Reconciliation.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
8 That:

9 (a) There is a Commission for Economic Justice and Racial Reconciliation.

10 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

11 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
12 the Senate;

13 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
14 the House;

15 (3) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

16 (4) the State Archivist, or the State Archivist's designee;

17 (5) one member of the Maryland Historical Society, designated by the
18 President of the Maryland Historical Society; and

19 (6) the following members, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate
20 and the Speaker of the House:

21 (i) one economist who is knowledgeable about the African American

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 economic gap;

2 (ii) one anthropologist or sociologist who is knowledgeable about
3 African American culture and society;

4 (iii) one legal scholar or attorney who is knowledgeable about
5 systemic structures of discrimination; and

6 (iv) two representatives of African American–led organizations.

7 (c) (1) The President of the Senate shall designate one of the members
8 appointed from the Senate of Maryland as cochair of the Commission.

9 (2) The Speaker of the House shall designate one of the members appointed
10 from the House of Delegates as cochair of the Commission.

11 (d) The Office of the Comptroller shall provide staff for the Commission.

12 (e) A member of the Commission:

13 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

14 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
15 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

16 (f) The Commission shall study historical laws and systems in place in the State
17 from the Reconstruction Era through the enactment of and subsequent amendments to the
18 federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 relating to taxation, the award of tax credits and
19 exemptions, and the payment of State tax revenue in the form of grants and subsidies to
20 determine the impact the laws and systems had on exacerbating the racial disparity of
21 resources and wealth in the State’s African American communities.

22 (g) (1) Beginning October 1, 2024, the Commission shall submit, in accordance
23 with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, quarterly status reports on the work of the
24 Commission to the General Assembly.

25 (2) On or before October 1, 2025, the Commission shall submit an interim
26 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
27 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

28 (3) On or before October 1, 2026, the Commission shall submit a final
29 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
30 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
32 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 6 months and, at the end of
33 December 31, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall

1 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.