

1 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana acknowledges the humanity of all the people
2 buried in long-lost graves along the Mississippi River; and

3 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana also acknowledges their contributions to the
4 economy and culture of this great state and this nation; and

5 WHEREAS, by acknowledging and protecting these sites, we are presenting a
6 meaningful way to better understand the reality of slavery, which will hopefully give us a
7 better understanding of the heritage and history of our friends, colleagues, and neighbors.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 create the Slavery Ancestral Burial Grounds Preservation Commission to study and develop
10 measures to preserve and protect unmarked and historic burial grounds, graves, and
11 cemeteries of the formerly enslaved in Louisiana.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be comprised of
13 representatives assigned from relevant and interested state agencies and other relevant and
14 interested parties, including but not limited to all of the following:

15 (1) Two members from the office of cultural development within the Department
16 of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in the office of the lieutenant governor:
17 the state archaeologist and the director of the division of historic
18 preservation.

19 (2) One member of the Louisiana House of Representatives appointed by the
20 speaker of the House of Representatives.

21 (3) One member of the Louisiana Senate appointed by the president of the
22 Senate.

23 (4) The chair of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus or his designee.

24 (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association or his designee.

25 (6) The chair of the Louisiana Cemetery Board or his designee.

26 (7) The executive director of Save Our Cemeteries or his designee.

27 (8) The president of the Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, Inc. or his
28 designee.

29 (9) The president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored
30 People (NAACP) or his designee.

- 1 (10) The chair of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce or
2 his designee.
- 3 (11) One representative of the office of research and strategic initiatives of the
4 Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.
- 5 (12) The attorney general or his designee who is an attorney.
- 6 (13) The State Superintendent of Education or his designee.
- 7 (14) The governor or his designee.
- 8 (15) One representative of the River Road African American Museum.
- 9 (16) Two representatives of the American Sugar Cane League.
- 10 (17) One representative of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- 11 (18) One representative of the Louisiana Chemical Association.
- 12 (19) One representative of the Ascension Parish Tourism Commission.
- 13 (20) One representative of the Iberville Tourist Commission.
- 14 (21) Two representatives of the River Parishes Tourist Commission representing
15 St. James Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish, respectively.
- 16 (22) One owner of a plantation in the river parishes appointed from a list of three
17 nominees submitted by the River Parishes Tourist Commission.
- 18 (23) Three representatives of the general public who have demonstrated a
19 commitment to the preservation and protection of historic cemeteries
20 appointed from a list of five nominees submitted by Save Our Cemeteries.
- 21 (24) The president of the National Urban League or his designee.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission is assigned to the office of the
23 lieutenant governor with staff support to be provided from existing personnel within the
24 office.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at the first meeting of the commission, the
26 members may elect a chairman, vice chairman, and other officers as they may deem
27 appropriate.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be domiciled in Baton
29 Rouge but may hold public meetings elsewhere in the state.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall meet as necessary and
31 shall serve without compensation and at no expense to the state.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member vacancies shall be filled in the same
2 manner as the original appointments.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the commission shall be to create
4 a written report of existing local, state, and federal cemetery protection laws to determine
5 rules and regulations for the identification, protection, and preservation of such grounds and
6 cemeteries and to make suggestions for additional laws to protect these sacred sites to the
7 House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
8 Protection, and International Affairs on or before the end of the sixth month following the
9 commission's first meeting.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit a second written
11 report to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce,
12 Consumer Protection, and International Affairs on or before the end of one year following
13 the release of the first report. This second report shall consist of the commission's findings
14 and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary and reasons therefore, on
15 each of the following:

16 (1) A cost-effective mechanism for cataloging unmarked and historic burial
17 grounds, graves, and cemeteries of slaves in Louisiana.

18 (2) Measures designed to protect the location of these sites from desecration.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit a third written
20 report to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce,
21 Consumer Protection, and International Affairs on or before the end of one year following
22 the release of the second report. This third report shall consist of the commission's findings
23 and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary and reasons therefore, on
24 each of the following:

25 (1) Funding sources for the preservation and protection of these sites in
26 conjunction with the River Road African American Museum.

27 (2) Methods for incorporating findings into educational history for students in
28 kindergarten through twelfth grade.

29 (3) Strategies for incorporating historical sites as tourist attractions in this state.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may form any number and
31 configuration of committees to accomplish the goals set forth herein.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
2 to the appointing entities named in this Resolution.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 51 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Brass

Creates the Slavery Ancestral Burial Grounds Preservation Commission to study and develop measures to preserve and protect unmarked and historic burial grounds, graves, and cemeteries of the formerly enslaved in the state of La.

Requires the commission to submit three reports of its findings to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs, the first on or before the end of the sixth month following the commission's first meeting, the second on or before the end of one year following the release of the first report, and the third on or before the end of one year following the release of the second report, respectively.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original resolution:

1. Replace the director of the office of cultural development with the director of the division of historic preservation as a member of the commission.
2. Replace the president of the National Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Baton Rouge branch with the president of the NAACP as a member of the commission.
3. Add the president of the National Urban League or his designee to the commission.
4. Delete provision designating the state archaeologist and director of the office of cultural development as chair of the commission and provide for election of a chairman.
5. Change deadline for the submission of a report to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs from Feb. 1, 2019, to within sixth months of the commission's first meeting.
6. Add requirements that commission present two additional reports to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs.
7. Add provision authorizing commission to form any number and configuration of committees.