

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination Against African Americans

### 2021 ANNUAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENABLING AUTHORITY: CODE OF VIRGINIA - § 2.2-2555 (A.5.)

#### **About the Commission**

The Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination Against African Americans (the Commission) was established by Chapter 1043 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, codified as §§ 2.2-2551 through 2.2-2557 of the Code of Virginia and effective July 1, 2020. The Commission was established as an advisory commission in the executive branch of state government to study the current impact and long-term inequities of slavery and subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans. The Library of Virginia and the Division of Legislative Services provide staff support to the Commission.

#### **2021 Work**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and delays in member appointments, the Commission did not hold its first meeting until June 8, 2021. The Commission subsequently met on October 8, 2021. During these meetings, the following actions were taken by the Commission with support from the Library of Virginia and Legislative Services: 1. Reviewed and approved the purview of the Commission's work based on the enabling legislation. 2. Reviewed the fiscal impact statement that the Library of Virginia had submitted. 3. Based on the fiscal impact statement, created and approved a position description for a project manager. 4. Interviewed and subsequently hired a project director (Start date was January 10, 2022). The Commission also expressed its support of a request for an additional two-year extension of the Commission (see current HB 139 and SB 151) based on the unavoidable delays noted above.

In support of the Commission, the Library of Virginia began compiling the following information in support of the commission's work: 1. A list of scholars and subject experts to be consulted; 2. Bibliographies of major scholarship and research in the subject areas outlined in the enabling legislation; 3. Reports from other government agencies, businesses, and advocacy groups bearing on the work.