Judiciary Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HJ-40 / Bill Status / Public Hearing Testimony
Title: RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE DECISION OF THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER TO DENY THE CLAIM AGAINST THE STATE OF NERISSA TERRY.
Vote Date: 3/30/2026
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/16/2026
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

If the Claims Commissioner denies a claim, the claimant has the right to request that the General Assembly review the Commissioner's decision. The claim of Nerissa Terry was submitted to the Judiciary Committee from the Office of the Claims Commissioner with the annual submission of all claims requesting review by the General Assembly.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language consolidated confirmation of denied claims of five claimants into one resolution for efficiency and simplicity due to the volume; the original language only pertained to one claim.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The following testimony was submitted for HJ 41:

Kennara Poteat: She submitted testimony in opposition to the resolution and requested the Committee grant the just claim or award an amount they deem fair and appropriate. She provided details regarding her pursuit of justice and expressed frustration with the number of obstacles she continues to encounter while navigating the process through lawful channels.

The following testimony was submitted for SJ 58:

Anonymous 734: Testimony was submitted without attrition in opposition to the resolution, requesting the Committee grant the appeal and authorize the claimant to sue the State.

Catherine Riley: She submitted testimony in opposition to the resolution, requesting the Committee grant her permission to sue the State. She provided details about her case and asked that she be allowed to present her facts to a judge in a courtroom.

J. Paul Vance: He submitted lengthy testimony in opposition to the resolution, providing details and a summary of the information regarding the timeline of the claimant's case. He requested that the decision of the Claims Commissioner be overturned, and the claimant be given permission to sue the State.

Reported by: Kirstin Breiner **Date:** April 6, 2026