

LC00968

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2002

A N A C T

RELATING TO COMPENSATION FOR WORLD WAR II FORCED LABOR

Introduced By: Senator Kevin A. Breene

Date Introduced: January 29, 2002

Referred To: Joint Veterans' Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 9 of the General Laws entitled "Courts And Civil Procedure --  
2 Procedure Generally" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 1.1

4 WORLD WAR II VETERANS' COMPENSATION FOR FORCED LABOR

5 **9-1.1-1. Legislative intent and purpose.** -- Thousands of victims of Nazi persecution,  
6 and the heirs of victims of Nazi persecution, are residents of the United States. These victims of  
7 Nazi persecution have been deprived of their entitlement to compensation for their labor and for  
8 injuries sustained while performing that labor as forced or slave laborers prior to and during the  
9 Second World War. The United States and the individual states, including the state of Rhode  
10 Island, have a moral and public policy interest in assuring that its residents and citizens are given  
11 a reasonable opportunity to claim their entitlement to compensation for forced or slave labor  
12 performed prior to and during the Second World War.

13 It is the intent of the general assembly, to compensate victims or families of victims of  
14 forced or slave labor by firms with proven patterns of slave labor which served as the basis of  
15 their ill-gotten wealth.

16 **9-1.1-2. Definitions.** – (a) “Second World War slave labor victim” means any person  
17 taken from a concentration camp or ghetto or diverted from transportation to a concentration  
18 camp or from a ghetto to perform labor without pay for any period of time between 1929 and  
19 1945, by the Nazi regime, its allies and sympathizers, or enterprises transacting business in any of  
20 the area occupied by or under control of the Nazi regime or its allies and sympathizers.

1           (b) “Second World War forced labor victim” means any person who was a member of  
2 the civilian population conquered by the Nazi regime, its allies or sympathizers, or prisoner-of-  
3 war of the Nazi regime, its allies or sympathizers, forced to perform labor without pay for any  
4 period of time between 1929 and 1945, by the Nazi regime, its allies and sympathizers, or  
5 enterprises transacting business in any of the areas occupied by or under control of the Nazi  
6 regime or its allies and sympathizers.

7           (c) “Compensation” means the present value of wages and benefits that individuals  
8 should have been paid and damages for injuries sustained in connection with the labor performed.  
9 Present value shall be calculated on the basis of the market value of the services at the time they  
10 were performed, plus interest from the time the services were performed, compounded annually  
11 to date of full payment without diminution for wartime or postwar currency devaluation.

12           **9-1.1-3 Cause of action. --** Any Second World War slave labor victim, or heir of a  
13 Second World War slave labor victim, and any Second World War forced labor victim, or heir of  
14 a Second World War forced labor victim, may bring an action to recover damages for injuries  
15 sustained or compensation for labor performed as either a Second World War slave labor victim  
16 or a Second World War forced labor victim from any entity or successor in interest thereof, for  
17 whom that labor was performed, either directly or through a subsidiary or affiliate. Any action  
18 brought under this chapter shall be brought in the court of the county where the plaintiff resides  
19 or closest thereto which court shall have jurisdiction over that action until its completion or  
20 resolution.

21           **9-1.1-4. Limitation of action. --** Any action brought under the provisions of this section  
22 9-1.1-3 shall not be dismissed for failure to comply with applicable statute of limitations, if the  
23 action is commenced on or before December 31, 2012.

24           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO COMPENSATION FOR WORLD WAR II FORCED LABOR

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- 1           This act would create a Cause of Action for World War II Veterans or heirs to recover
- 2    compensation for labor performed as a Second World War slave labor victim against any entity or
- 3    successor for whom that labor was performed.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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