

Title: The Galactic Emancipation Act

BE IT ENACTED by the Galactic Senate of the Republic:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the Galactic Emancipation Act.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a) Findings: Recognising the continuing existence of the scourge of slavery and the failure of Republic Law to eradicate it, there is clear need for a more comprehensive effort to truly combat slavery. Additionally, while acknowledging the sovereignty of worlds outside of Republic Space, the Republic sees slavery as a universal evil which too often transcends borders. It seeks to stand against the evils of trafficking in a way that is practicably respectful of sovereignty, yet effective in its ability to combat slavery as a galaxy-wide horror.

(b) Purpose: The purpose of this Act is thus to finally end slavery and ensure every citizen of the Galactic Republic is truly free. This Act shall provide clear mechanisms for liberation efforts with the goal of mobilising the Republic's considerable resources to the achieve the total emancipation of all slaves.

SECTION 3. PROVISIONS DEFINING AND PROHIBITING GALACTIC SLAVERY

- (a) No Sapient being may be owned by any corporation, organisation, individual, or government.
- (b) Any commercial or legal arrangement contravening s3(a) or otherwise concerned with the ownership of a sapient being, regardless of previous legality, is deemed illegal and voided forthwith.
- (c) No Sapient being may be exploited for uncompensated labour by any corporation, organisation, individual, or government, except as part of a legitimate prison sentence passed by a Republic Judge and/or administered by Republic Judicials.
- (d) Any commercial arrangements formulated outside the Republic which contravene s3(a) are regarded as void and invalid for the purposes of Republic Law.
- (e) Any sapient being who enters Republic Space is protected by s3(a) as though they were a Republic Citizen regardless of citizenship circumstance. The Republic shall have jurisdiction to ensure the liberty of all such persons.
- (f) No cause of action shall arise against the Republic for deprivation of property or financial interest suffered from a legitimate exercise of this Act. The Republic shall not be empowered to offer any compensation for such cases, including as part of a legal settlement.
- (g) Any world seeking to become a member world of the Republic must ensure full compliance with this Act prior to formal admission to the Republic.
- (h) Any colony established by the Republic must be chartered in compliance with this Act.
- (i) Nothing in this Act should be read to the extent that it would involve prohibition or criminalisation of non-commercial organisations such as monastic orders with voluntary life-long service and commitment. This is not to be considered ownership or exploitation in of itself for the purposes of this act.

SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTATION

- (a) This Act shall take effect immediately upon being passed by the Galactic Senate and signed into law by the Chancellor.
- (b) The Chancellor shall have the power to promulgate any special regulations for the purposes of enforcing this Act or otherwise ensuring the prevention of slavery.
- (c) The Chancellor shall have the power to allocate any military or legal resources at their disposal to the enforcement of this Act as they see fit. The Chancellor is also empowered to make executive decisions and allocate resources to the prevention of slavery, and to the assistance of freed slaves in creating new lives for themselves.
- (d) The Senate Committee for the Eradication of Slavery shall, at its discretion, provide reports to the Chancellor and Senate about where Republic resources may be directed to combat slavery, as well as any potential amendments to this Act, any potential notable violators of the Act, any potential regulations for this Act, and must provide an annual report on the state of slavery within the Republic.
- (e) The Republic is obligated to, when assessing colonial efforts and proposals, favourably regard any measures assisting freed slaves in terms of safety, social integration, and economic opportunity. The Chancellor may, as part of their obligations under s4(c), explicitly allocate additional resources to colonial projects for this aim.

SECTION 5. SPECIFIED PENALTIES

- (a) Any individual who intentionally contravenes this Act is liable to at minimum some term of imprisonment, and at maximum a term of imprisonment lasting their whole life.
- (b) Any organisation or corporation which negligently or intentionally contravenes this Act is liable to a fine, criminal liability for its directors and select employees based on their direct involvement, and at a maximum: nationalisation.
- (c) Where an organisation of any kind is known to explicitly deal in the trafficking of slaves by any means and to any ends, it need not have a judicial finding of guilt as to a contravention of this Act to be subject to penalties. The Galactic Senate may instead formally impeach an organisation as a Slaver organisation and thus declare it an enemy of the Republic. Its assets shall be seized, and its members arrested and tried separately for High Treason.
- (d) Where a government negligently or intentionally contravenes this Act, the Chancellor of the Republic may issue a formal warning to that world and recommend steps to bring it into compliance.
- (e) Where a Senator of the Republic is formally suspected of participating in the contravention of this Act, it shall be grounds for the impeachment of that Senator.
- (f) Destruction of any evidence of a contravention to this Act, or any hindrance of Republic inquiries into matters governed by this Act, is an offence carrying a liability similar to s5(a) if an individual and s5(b) if a corporation or organisation. A contravention of this section is grounds for the use of s5(d).

- (g) Any government found by a Senate Committee or Republic Court to seriously and repeatedly contravene this Act despite at least one formal warning from the Chancellor pursuant to s5(d) may be subject to Senate impeachment as found in s5(c). This process shall be capable of suspending the offender's recognition by the Republic, finding it to be a treasonous organisation, or otherwise dissolved as the Senate sees fit. Within this process, the Senate may order a provisional administration to replace that government until such time as a proper independent one can be reconstituted.
- (h) Any attempt to contravene any section of this Act shall be regarded as a contravention of the Act.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT

- (a) The Galactic Senate shall have the power to enforce this Act by making appropriate regulations as needed or by diverting funds to the specific aims of this Act.
- (b) The Republic shall be able to search any vessel, vehicle, or person without a warrant provided there is reasonable suspicion it is being used to transport slaves or that there is evidence of involvement with any past, present, or future contravention of this Act.
- (c) The Republic shall be able to, with a warrant from a magistrate of the Republic or any higher member of the Republic Judiciary, search any property or premises suspected of containing evidence of contraventions of this Act, or belonging to an individual, corporation, organisation, or government suspected of contravening this Act.
- (d) Only an officer of the Republic Judicials, a member of a Republic World's planetary defence forces, a member of the Jedi Order, or any other person who is officially sanctioned to bear arms in the Republic's name, may exercise the powers in s7(b) and (c) granted to the Republic.
- (e) In interpreting this Act, the judiciary of the Republic shall have due regard for the purposes of this Act as paramount in any unresolved questions or implicit terms. Those purposes are the total eradication of slavery within Republic space, the maximising of the Republic's ability to combat slavery outside of the Republic without necessarily disrupting the sovereignty of non-Republic members, and the inherent rights of all sapient beings to dignity, privacy, liberty, and security of person.

SECTION 8. SAFEGUARDS

(a) No power under this Act should be exercised for anything other than the enforcement of this Act. Nor should any exercise be made in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner. Any improper use of the powers under this Act shall create a compensatory liability for the Republic and potentially render any resulting convictions invalid.

(b) Warrants shall be given for the purposes of s7(c) only where the requesting party can establish grounds for the court to reasonably suspect on the balance of probabilities the existence of a ground for s7(c)'s application. They shall be issued with appropriate notice to the subject of the warrant unless the requesting party submits and adequately establishes that the subject being notified would carry a risk of flight or evidence tampering or any kind of harm. An improperly issued warrant may void a resulting conviction if the seriousness of the impropriety outweighs the seriousness of the conviction, although courts must consider any form of direct involvement with slavery to be inherently significantly serious.

(c) Any individual or entity that violates this Act shall be subject to penalties, which may include fines, imprisonment, or other measures deemed appropriate by the Senate. The list of contraventions and slavery definitions in Section 5 may be supplemented by appropriate clarifying regulations without need for amending this Act.

(d) Subject to the limitations of s3(f), any individual or entity that believes they have been adversely affected by a violation of this Act may seek legal redress.

SECTION 8. EFFECT ON EXISTING LAW

This Act shall supersede any conflicting provision of law predating this Act.

SECTION 9. AUTHORITY

This Act is enacted pursuant to the powers vested in the Galactic Senate under the Constitution of the Galactic Republic.