

Jim Crow Laws: Georgia

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Passed 27 Jim Crow laws. In addition to the usual miscegenation and educational statutes, segregation laws governing such areas as business licenses, health care and prisons were passed. An 1899 statute authorizing railroad segregation noted that railways were not compelled to transport blacks in either sleeping cars or parlor cars. One anti-segregation law was passed during the Reconstruction era. A curious municipal ordinance was passed by the city of Atlanta in 1927 making it illegal for black barbers to service white children under the age of fourteen. Although Georgia's poll tax law was repealed in 1955, a statute passed three years later restricted voting to those who could answer a series of challenging questions about the Constitution.

1865: Miscegenation [Statute]

Unlawful for officials to issue marriage licenses to persons of African descent and the other a white person. Penalty: A misdemeanor that carried a fine between \$200 and \$500, or confinement in jail for three months, or both. Ministers who married such persons also guilty of a misdemeanor, and fined between \$500 and \$1,000, or confined in jail for six months, or both.

1870: Barred railroad segregation [Statute]

Railroads required to furnish equal accommodations to all, without regard to race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Penalty: Violators could be sued, and the injured party could collect as much as \$10,000.

1872: Education [Statute]

Called for separate schools for white and black children. Penalty: Schools that admitted both races would receive no monies from the public school fund.

1877: Education [Constitution]

Schools shall be free to all children of the state, but separate schools shall be provided for white and black children.

1891: Railroad and streetcars [Statute]

All railroads to furnish equal accommodations, in separate cars, for white and black passengers. Law did not apply to sleeping-cars. Streetcar conductors to assign passengers to seats, separating the races as much as practicable. Penalty: Passengers who did not comply were guilty of a misdemeanor and could be ejected by a conductor.

1895: Education [State Code]

Black and white children not allowed to attend the same school. Penalty: Teachers who taught white and black pupils in the same school would not be compensated out of the public school fund.

1899: Railroads [Statute]

Railroad companies had the right to assign passengers to seats and berths, and would separate white and colored passengers in sleeping cars. White and colored passengers would not be allowed to occupy the same compartment. Companies were not compelled to carry blacks in sleeping cars or parlor cars.

1905: Public accommodations [Statute]

Any person could donate lands to a city for a park, with the condition that the use of a park be limited to the white race only, or to white women and children only, or to the colored race. Municipalities could accept such gifts for the "exclusive use of the class named."

1908: Penal institutions [Statute]

Separate eating and sleeping accommodations were required for white and black prisoners, and while working.

1925: Business licenses [Statute]

No license would be issued to any person of "the white or Caucasian race to operate a billiard room to be used, frequented, or patronized by persons of the Negro race" and vice versa.

1926: Race classification [State Code]

Classified a "Negro" as any person with at least one quarter Negro blood.

1926: Education [State Code]

Required schools to be racially segregated. Teachers who were guilty of receiving or teaching white and colored pupils in the same school would not be compensated.

1926: Miscegenation [State Code]

Colored clergyman can marry Negroes only. Also nullified interracial marriages if parties went to another jurisdiction where such marriages were legal.

1927: Miscegenation [Statute]

"Unlawful for a white person to marry anyone except a white person." Another statute enacted the same year changed the law to read that all persons with any ascertainable trace of Negro blood must be classified as persons of color. Penalty: Both races would be imprisoned in the penitentiary for one to two years.

1927: Public accommodations [City Ordinance]

No Negro barber in Atlanta allowed to serve white children under fourteen years of age. Court later declared the ordinance unconstitutional.

1928: Miscegenation [State Code]

Miscegenation declared a felony. Also unlawful for Caucasian persons to marry Asians or Malays.

1928: Race classification [Statute]

Required all persons to fill out voter registration forms with information concerning their racial ancestry. If there was any admixture of Negro blood in the veins of any registrant, person would be considered a person of color.

1931: Public carriers [Statute]

Motor common carriers could confine themselves to carry either white or colored passengers.

1933: Education [State Code]

The board of education was responsible to provide instruction of black and white children in separate schools.

1935: Miscegenation [State Code]

Illegal for a white to marry anyone but a white. Penalty: Felony, one to two years imprisonment.

1935: Health Care [State Code]

Separate mental hospitals to be established for blacks.

1935: Public Carriers [Statute]

Required segregation on all public transportation.

1945: Education [Constitution]

Separate schools to be provided for the white and colored races.

1949: Voting rights [Statute]

Those persons registering to vote were required to correctly answer ten out of thirty questions. Many of the questions were quite difficult.

1955: Voting rights protected [State Code]

Repealed poll tax

1957: Public accommodations and recreation [State Code]

Political subdivisions may alienate parks, etc.

1957: Education [State Code]

No public funds to be allocated to non-segregated schools. Penalty: felony.

1958: Voting rights [Statute]

This statute made voter registration extremely tedious and difficult. Law was designated as "An act to effect a complete revision of the laws of this state relating to the qualification and registration of voters." For example, one of the questions asked "Under what constitutional classification do you desire to make application for registration?"

1958: Public carriers [State Code]

Segregation on public carriers

1963: Public carrier segregation barred [City Ordinance]

The city of Albany, Ga, repealed the ordinances which had required segregation in transportation, ticket sales and restaurants.

1963: Public accommodations segregation barred [City Ordinance]

The city of Atlanta passed an ordinance which repealed all city ordinances "which required the separation of persons because of race, color or creed in public transportation, recreation, entertainment and other facilities.