

Enrolled
House Bill 2168

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for Office of the Governor)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to Juneteenth; amending ORS 187.010; and prescribing an effective date.

Whereas June 19th of each year commemorates the emancipation from slavery of those who had been slaves in the United States; and

Whereas June 19th is also known as Juneteenth, Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day and Freedom Day; and

Whereas Juneteenth is the oldest African American holiday observance in the United States; and

Whereas Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, commemorates an important step toward the abolition of slavery and is the date on which Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order Number 3, requiring the immediate freedom of more than 250,000 enslaved African Americans in Texas; and

Whereas on September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the celebrated Emancipation Proclamation warning Confederate States that he would declare their slaves “forever free”; and

Whereas enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation occurred only in Confederate States that were under Union Army control; and

Whereas Texas was the most remote and geographically isolated and therefore last of the Confederate States to receive orders requiring the end of slavery; and

Whereas on June 19th, 1865, Union troops marched throughout Galveston reading to the people of Galveston that all slaves were free; and

Whereas the former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations; and

Whereas Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas the following year; and

Whereas Juneteenth commemorates the indomitable spirit of African Americans who were first brought to this country stacked and shackled in the bottom of slave ships in a months-long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the “Middle Passage”; and

Whereas 2021 marks more than 400 years since the first arrival of Africans in colonial America, and the United States Congress established the 400 Years of African-American History Commission to commemorate the historic heritage and contributions that Americans of African descent have made in shaping the cultural, academic, social, economic and moral attributes of this nation; and

Whereas the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s saw a resurgence of interest in Juneteenth, along with renewed community celebrations of the day; and

Whereas a growing number of American and African American cultural institutions have sponsored Juneteenth cultural events designed to make all Americans aware of this celebration; and

Whereas Juneteenth celebrations are a tribute to those African Americans who fought so long for freedom and worked so hard to make the dream of equality a reality; and

Whereas Juneteenth is a day to honor and reflect on the significant ways that African Americans have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting freedom, brotherhood and equality; and

Whereas Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement; and

Whereas Juneteenth is marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, reflection and rejoicing; and

Whereas in recognition of the many ways in which the history and culture of African Americans, and the advancements, discoveries and achievements of African Americans, have contributed to the history, culture and social fabric of the State of Oregon, the Legislative Assembly finds that establishing Juneteenth as a legal holiday is appropriate; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 187.010 is amended to read:

187.010. (1) The following days are legal holidays in this state:

(a) Each Sunday.

(b) New Year's Day on January 1.

(c) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday on the third Monday in January.

(d) Presidents Day, for the purpose of commemorating Presidents Washington and Lincoln, on the third Monday in February.

(e) Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

(f) Juneteenth on June 19.

[(f)] **(g)** Independence Day on July 4.

[(g)] **(h)** Labor Day on the first Monday in September.

[(h)] **(i)** Veterans Day on November 11.

[(i)] **(j)** Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday in November.

[(j)] **(k)** Christmas Day on December 25.

(2) Each time a holiday, other than Sunday, listed in subsection (1) of this section falls on Sunday, the succeeding Monday shall be a legal holiday. Each time a holiday listed in subsection (1) of this section falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be a legal holiday.

(3) Any act authorized, required or permitted to be performed on a holiday as designated in this section may be performed on the next succeeding business day; and no liability or loss of rights of any kind shall result from such delay.

(4) In enumerating legal holidays in subsection (1) of this section, the Legislative Assembly does not intend to limit or otherwise affect public or private collective bargaining or collective bargaining agreements.

SECTION 2. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Passed by House April 8, 2021

Repassed by House June 2, 2021

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 1, 2021

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2021

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2021

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2021

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Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State