

HB 623

2009

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Juneteenth Independence Day; amending
 3 s. 683.21, F.S.; renaming Juneteenth Day as "Juneteenth
 4 Independence Day"; requiring the Governor to annually
 5 issue a proclamation concerning Juneteenth Independence
 6 Day; providing criteria concerning the proclamation's
 7 contents; providing an effective date.

8
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11 Section 1. Section 683.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 12 read:

13 683.21 Juneteenth Independence Day.--

14 (1) June 19th of each year is ~~hereby~~ designated
 15 "Juneteenth Independence Day" to commemorate the traditional
 16 observance of the day the slaves in Florida were notified of the
 17 Emancipation Proclamation and in recognition of June 19, 1865,
 18 when Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all
 19 slaves in the southwestern United States.

20 (2) The Governor shall annually ~~may~~ issue ~~annually~~ a
 21 proclamation designating June 19th as Juneteenth Independence
 22 Day, to be observed on the Saturday that is closest to June
 23 19th, recognizing the end of slavery in the United States and
 24 the significant contributions that individuals of African
 25 descent have made to this state and the United States, and
 26 calling on public officials, schools, private organizations, and
 27 all members of the public ~~citizens~~ to honor the historic
 28 significance of the day and observe the day in an appropriate

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29 | manner.

30 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.