

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

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BILL: SB 688

INTRODUCER: Senator Hill

SUBJECT: Juneteenth Independence Day

DATE: March 6, 2009                      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	McKay	Wilson	GO	Favorable
2.			JU	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

**I. Summary:**

The bill renames the current “Juneteenth Day” as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” adds some historical context to the statute, and requires that the Governor annually issue a proclamation designating the day. It does not create a paid holiday for state employees.

This bill substantially amends section 683.21 of the Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Holidays and Observances**

Chapter 683, F.S., pertains to legal holidays and observances. There are currently 21 legal holidays designated in s. 683.01, F.S.<sup>1</sup> The chapter provides that whenever reference is made to “legal holidays” in contracts to be performed by the state, the term includes the holidays designated in s. 683.01, F.S., and such others as may be designated by law.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The legal holidays named in s. 683.01, F.S., are: (a) Sunday; (b) New Year’s Day; (c) Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.; (d) Birthday of Robert E. Lee; (e) Lincoln’s Birthday; (f) Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday; (g) Washington’s Birthday; (h) Good Friday; (i) Pascua Florida Day; (j) Confederate Memorial Day; (k) Memorial Day; (l) Birthday of Jefferson Davis; (m) Flag Day; (n) Independence Day; (o) Labor Day; (p) Columbus Day and Farmers’ Day; (q) Veterans’ Day; (r) General Election Day; (s) Thanksgiving Day; (t) Christmas Day; and (u) Shrove Tuesday, in certain counties.

<sup>2</sup> Section 683.02, F.S.

Designation of a day as a legal holiday does not automatically make that day a paid holiday for public employees. Presently, there are nine such paid holidays for state employees, all of which are listed in s. 110.117, F.S.<sup>3</sup>

Additional holidays such as Gasparilla Day and Rosh Hashanah are designated as legal holidays in certain counties or judicial circuits.<sup>4</sup>

Chapter 683, F.S., additionally designates days of special observance that are not legal holidays. These include, but are not limited to, Law Enforcement Memorial Day, Teacher's Day, Florida Alzheimer's Disease Day, Patriots' Day, Florida Missing Children's Day, and Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.<sup>5</sup> Of all these days of special observance, only one, Pan-American Day,<sup>6</sup> requires the Governor to make a proclamation designating the day. All other such observances are either designated directly in the statute, or allow the Governor to make a proclamation designating the day.

Section 683.21, F.S., codifies Chapter 91-252, L.O.F., which designated June 19<sup>th</sup> of each year as Juneteenth Day to "commemorate the traditional observance of the day the slaves in Florida were notified of the Emancipation Proclamation." The statute provides that the Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating the day.

### **The Emancipation Proclamation and Juneteenth**

On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued a proclamation that people held as slaves in states then rebelling against the United States were freed. The Final Emancipation Proclamation, issued on January 1, 1863, reiterated the initial proclamation, and specified the states then in rebellion. Because the proclamation was not enforced in the Confederacy, news of the Proclamation did not officially reach many until it was announced by Union generals after the cessation of hostilities. In Florida, the Emancipation Proclamation was first announced by Union General Edward Moody McCook on May 20, 1865, the date of the state capital's surrender.<sup>7</sup> The Emancipation Proclamation was announced in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, by Union General Gordon Granger. According to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, celebrations of June 19 as emancipation day began in 1866, and eventually spread to neighboring states.<sup>8</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill changes the name of the observance from "Juneteenth Day" to "Juneteenth Independence Day," and adds language that the day is "in recognition of June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the southwestern United States." The bill provides that the day "is to be observed on the Saturday that is closest to June

<sup>3</sup> The following holidays are paid holidays observed by all state branches and agencies: (a) New Year's Day; (b) Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.; (c) Memorial Day; (d) Independence Day; (e) Labor Day; (f) Veterans' Day; (g) Thanksgiving Day; (h) Friday after Thanksgiving; and (i) Christmas Day.

<sup>4</sup> Chapter 683, F.S.

<sup>5</sup> For a full list of special observances in the state and legal holidays in specific counties, see ss. 683.04 through 683.33, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 683.05, F.S., which codifies Ch. 22975, 1945.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.rileymuseum.org/tallyguide.htm>, on January 25, 2008, and Rivers, Larry E. *Slavery in Florida: Territorial Days to Emancipation*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2000.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/juneteenth.html>, on January 24, 2008.

19<sup>th</sup>, recognizing the end of slavery in the United States and the significant contributions that individuals of African descent have made to this state and the United States,” and calls on members of the public to observe the day in an appropriate manner.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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