

By Senator Hill

1-00879-09

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Juneteenth Independence Day;
3 amending s. 683.21, F.S.; renaming Juneteenth Day as
4 "Juneteenth Independence Day"; requiring the Governor
5 to annually issue a proclamation concerning Juneteenth
6 Independence Day; providing criteria concerning the
7 proclamation's 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 "Juneteenth
15 Independence Day" to commemorate the traditional observance of
16 the day the slaves in Florida were notified of the Emancipation
17 Proclamation and in recognition of June 19, 1865, when Union
18 General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the
19 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
29 manner.

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