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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Floor: 1/AD/2R

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Senator Bracy moved the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Present paragraphs (k) through (m), (n) through  
(p), and (q) through (u) of subsection (1) of section 683.01,  
Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (l) through  
(n), (p) through (r), and (t) through (x), respectively, and new  
paragraphs (k), (o), and (s) are added to that subsection, to  
read:

683.01 Legal holidays.-



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12 (1) The legal holidays, which are also public holidays, are  
13 the following:

14 (k) Emancipation Day, May 20.

15 (o) Juneteenth Day, June 19.

16 (s) Victims of Communism Day, November 7.

17 Section 2. Section 683.21, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

18 Section 3. On the final day of each regular legislative  
19 session, the Legislature shall, in recognition of "Victims of  
20 Communism Day," engage in a moment of silence.

21 Section 4. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, high  
22 school students enrolled in the United States Government class  
23 required by s. 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, must receive at  
24 least 45 minutes of instruction on "Victims of Communism Day" on  
25 topics such as Mao Zedong in China, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet  
26 System, Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin  
27 and the Russian Revolution, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, and Nicolas  
28 Maduro in Venezuela and how the victims suffered under these  
29 regimes through suppression of speech, poverty, starvation,  
30 migration, and systemic lethal violence against civilians. High  
31 school students enrolled in the United States Government class  
32 required by s. 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, must receive at  
33 least 45 minutes of instruction on the significance of  
34 "Emancipation Day" as it relates to the State of Florida.

35 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

36  
37 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

38 And the title is amended as follows:

39 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
40 and insert:



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41                                   A bill to be entitled  
42           An act relating to legal holidays; amending s. 683.01,  
43           F.S.; designating Emancipation Day, Juneteenth Day,  
44           and Victims of Communism Day as legal holidays;  
45           repealing s. 683.21, F.S., relating to Juneteenth Day;  
46           deleting provisions designating Juneteenth Day as a  
47           special observance, to conform to changes made by the  
48           act; requiring the Legislature to annually observe a  
49           moment of silence in recognition of the victims of  
50           communism; requiring high school students in a  
51           required United States Government course to receive  
52           certain instruction regarding Victims of Communism  
53           Day; requiring high school students to receive certain  
54           instruction on the significance of Emancipation Day;  
55           providing an effective date.

56  
57           WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln  
58           issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which afforded free status  
59           under federal law to the millions of enslaved African Americans  
60           who resided in states that had seceded from the Union, including  
61           Florida, and

62           WHEREAS, despite the issuance of the Emancipation  
63           Proclamation, it was not fully enforced in certain regions of  
64           the United States for more than 2 years afterward, and

65           WHEREAS, on or about June 19, 1865, federal authorities  
66           arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation  
67           Proclamation and further inform slaves that the Civil War had  
68           ended and that the enslaved were now free, and

69           WHEREAS, thereafter, former slaves and their descendants



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70 continued to commemorate each June 19 to celebrate freedom and  
71 the emancipation of all slaves in the United States, and

72 WHEREAS, emancipation in Florida was proclaimed in  
73 Tallahassee on May 20, 1865, and for this reason Floridians  
74 traditionally celebrate Emancipation Day on May 20 of each year,  
75 and

76 WHEREAS, in 1991, the Florida Legislature officially  
77 designated June 19 of each year as "Juneteenth Day" to  
78 commemorate the freeing of slaves, but did not designate the day  
79 as an official legal holiday, and

80 WHEREAS, this act designates Emancipation Day and  
81 Juneteenth Day as legal holidays in this state to commemorate  
82 the announcement of the abolition of slavery and to recognize  
83 the significant contributions of African Americans to this state  
84 and our nation, and

85 WHEREAS, over 100 years have passed since the Bolshevik  
86 Revolution in Russia and the formation of the first communist  
87 government under Vladimir Lenin, leading to decades of  
88 oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the  
89 world, and

90 WHEREAS, based on the economic philosophies of Karl Marx,  
91 communism has proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty,  
92 prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given rise to such  
93 infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Hồ  
94 Chí Minh, and Pol Pot, and

95 WHEREAS, communist regimes worldwide have killed more than  
96 100 million people and subjected countless others to  
97 exploitation and unspeakable atrocities, with victims  
98 representing many ethnicities, creeds, and backgrounds, and



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99           WHEREAS, many victims of communism were persecuted as  
100 political prisoners for speaking out against these regimes, and  
101 others were killed in genocidal state-sponsored purges of  
102 undesirable groups, and

103           WHEREAS, in addition to violating basic human rights,  
104 communist regimes have suppressed intellectual freedom, cultural  
105 life, and self-determination movements in more than 40 nations,  
106 and

107           WHEREAS, slavery robbed individuals of their most basic  
108 human rights, just as communism continues to deprive hundreds of  
109 millions of people worldwide of the rights of freedom of  
110 worship, freedom of speech, and freedom of association, through  
111 coercion, brutality, and fear, NOW, THEREFORE,