



132172

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

.

House

.

.

Floor: NC/2R

.

04/21/2021 01:01 PM

.

.

---

Senator Bracy moved the following:

1           **Senate Substitute for Amendment (417806) (with title**  
2 **amendment)**

3  
4           Delete everything after the enacting clause  
5 and insert:

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



132172

12 683.01 Legal holidays.-

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

15 (k) Emancipation Day, May 20.

16 (o) Juneteenth Day, June 19.

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

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 Section 683.21, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

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

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

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

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

39 And the title is amended as follows:

40 Delete everything before the enacting clause



132172

41 and insert:

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

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

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

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



132172

70           WHEREAS, thereafter, former slaves and their descendants  
71 continued to commemorate each June 19 to celebrate freedom and  
72 the emancipation of all slaves in the United States, and

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

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

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

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

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

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



132172

99 representing many ethnicities, creeds, and backgrounds, and

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

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

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