

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 640

## 92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON, SANDERS BROOKS, EL-AMIN, BLAND,  
BOYKINS, JETTON, HUBBARD, HAYWOOD (Co-sponsors), PARKER, CURLS, HOSKINS,  
JONES AND WILSON (42).

Read 1<sup>st</sup> time March 11, 2003, and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

1444L.02I

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 9, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to Emancipation Day.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 9, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 9.161, to read as follows:

2 **9.161. June nineteenth, known as Juneteenth, of each year shall be known and is**  
3 **designated as "Emancipation Day" to provide an opportunity for the people of Missouri**  
4 **to reflect upon the United States of America's passion for freedom as exemplified in the**  
5 **Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation,**  
6 **and to reflect upon the significance and particularity of the Emancipation Proclamation**  
7 **and its role in ending slavery in the United States. To celebrate that Juneteenth**  
8 **commemorates the spirit and quest of African-American freedom emphasizing education,**  
9 **art, and intellectual achievement, through reflection, rejoicing, and manifestation of a more**  
10 **substantive economic and just citizenry, the people of the state, offices of government, and**  
11 **all educational, commercial, political, civic, religious, and fraternal organizations in the**  
12 **state are requested to devote some part of the day to remember the proclamation that**  
13 **began the full realization for all people in the United States of the self-evident truth, as**  
14 **stated in the Declaration of Independence of the United States, that all men are created**  
15 **equal, by:**

15 (1) **Celebrating the abolishment of slavery, accomplished by ratification of the**  
16 **thirteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as the former slaves**  
17 **celebrated on June 19, 1865, upon learning the message of freedom from Major General**  
18 **Gordon Granger of the Union Army in Galveston, Texas, which celebration, known as**

19 **"Juneteenth", is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery;**

20 **(2) Reaffirming their commitment to achieving equal justice and opportunity for**  
21 **all citizens; and**

22 **(3) Commemorating the day by declining compensation for any work performed**  
23 **on that day.**