

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
[PERFECTED]  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 640**  
**92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Reported from the Special Committee on Urban Issues, April 24, 2003, with recommendation that the House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 640 Do Pass.

Taken up for Perfection May 1, 2003. House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 640 ordered Perfected and printed, as amended.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

1444L.03P

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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 known as section 9.161, to read as follows:

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

**(1) Celebrating the abolishment of slavery, accomplished by ratification of the 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; and

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

22 2. There is hereby established the "Missouri Juneteenth Heritage and Jazz Festival  
23 and Memorial". Any funds appropriated by the general assembly for this event shall be  
24 used to establish a state-wide festival and monument to commemorate the struggles and  
25 hardships endured by those who had been enslaved.