

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

# HOUSE BILL NO. 640

## 92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1444L.03T

2003

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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:

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

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

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.**