

HCS HB 640 -- EMANCIPATION DAY

SPONSOR: Bland (Walton)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute designates June 19 of each year as "Emancipation Day." This day is also referred to as "Juneteenth," which commemorates June 19, 1865, which was the day the last slaves were informed of their freedom.

On this day, Missourians, government offices, and all organizations are asked to devote part of the day to remembering the Emancipation Proclamation by celebrating "Juneteenth" and reaffirming their commitment to achieving equal justice and opportunity.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Juneteenth celebrations happen all over the nation and that the bill will make it a commemorative holiday in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Walton.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst