

HCS HB 640 -- EMANCIPATION DAY (Walton)

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.

The substitute creates the Missouri Juneteenth Heritage and Jazz Festival and Memorial. The substitute allows the General Assembly to appropriate funds to establish a statewide festival and monument to commemorate the struggles and hardships endured by those who were enslaved.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.