

HCS HB 640 -- EMANCIPATION DAY

This bill designates June 19 of each year as "Emancipation Day." This day is also referred to as "Juneteenth," which commemorates June 19, 1865, the day former slaves in Galveston, Texas, celebrated the ending of slavery.

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 bill creates the Missouri Juneteenth Heritage and Jazz Festival and Memorial. The bill 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.