



342492

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability  
(Bracy) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 46 - 157.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 3 - 42

and insert:

683.01, F.S.; designating Juneteenth Day as a legal  
holiday; repealing s. 683.21, F.S., relating to



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11 Juneteenth Day; deleting provisions designating  
12 Juneteenth Day as a special observance, to conform to  
13 changes made by the act; providing an effective date.  
14

15 WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln  
16 issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which afforded free status  
17 under federal law to the millions of enslaved African Americans  
18 who resided in states that had seceded from the Union, including  
19 Florida, and

20 WHEREAS, despite the issuance of the Emancipation  
21 Proclamation, it was not fully enforced in certain regions of  
22 the United States for more than 2 years afterwards, and

23 WHEREAS, on or about June 19, 1865, federal authorities  
24 arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation  
25 Proclamation and further inform slaves that the Civil War had  
26 ended and that the enslaved were now free, and

27 WHEREAS, thereafter, former slaves and their descendants  
28 continued to commemorate each June 19 to celebrate freedom and  
29 the emancipation of all slaves in the United States, and

30 WHEREAS, emancipation in Florida was proclaimed in  
31 Tallahassee on May 20, 1865, and for this reason Floridians  
32 traditionally celebrate Emancipation Day on May 20 of each year,  
33 and

34 WHEREAS, in 1991, the Florida Legislature officially  
35 designated June 19 of each year as "Juneteenth Day" to  
36 commemorate the freeing of slaves, but did not designate the day  
37 as an official legal holiday, and

38 WHEREAS, this act designates Juneteenth Day as a legal  
39 holiday in this state to commemorate the announcement of the



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40 abolition of slavery and to recognize the significant  
41 contributions of African Americans to this state and our nation,  
42 NOW, THEREFORE,