

1 AN ACT relating to state holidays and declaring an emergency.

2 WHEREAS, Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021, and in 2023, more than  
3 half of the states recognized Juneteenth as an official public holiday; and

4 WHEREAS, every state has at some point passed a resolution recognizing  
5 Juneteenth at least as a day of observance, including those that do not count Juneteenth  
6 among their official public holidays; and

7 WHEREAS, for more than one hundred fifty years, "Juneteenth National Freedom  
8 Day" continues to be the most recognized African-American holiday observance and has  
9 also been called "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," "Freedom Day,"  
10 "Juneteenth Independence Day," and "Juneteenth"; and

11 WHEREAS, the nineteenth of June, along with the fourth of July, completes the  
12 cycle of freedom for Americans' Independence Day observance;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

15 ➔Section 1. KRS 2.110 is amended to read as follows:

16 (1) The first day of January (New Year's Day), the third Monday of January (Birthday  
17 of Martin Luther King, Jr.), the nineteenth day of January (Robert E. Lee Day), the  
18 thirtieth day of January (Franklin D. Roosevelt Day), the twelfth day of February  
19 (Lincoln's Birthday), the third Monday in February (Washington's Birthday), the  
20 last Monday in May (Memorial Day), the third day of June (Confederate Memorial  
21 Day, and Jefferson Davis Day), **the nineteenth day of June (Juneteenth National  
22 Freedom Day)**, the fourth day of July (Independence Day), the first Monday in  
23 September (Labor Day), the second Monday in October (Columbus Day), the  
24 eleventh day of November (Veterans Day), the twenty-fifth day of December  
25 (Christmas Day) of each year, and all days appointed by the President of the United  
26 States or by the Governor as days of thanksgiving, are holidays, on which all the  
27 public offices of this Commonwealth may be closed.

1 (2) No person shall be compelled to labor on the first Monday in September (Labor  
2 Day) by any person.

3 ➔Section 2. Whereas Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021, and in 2023,  
4 at least 28 states and the District of Columbia legally recognized Juneteenth as a public  
5 holiday, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and  
6 approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.