

HOUSE BILL 448

P1

1lr0377

By: **Delegate Harrison**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Legal and Employee Holiday – Juneteenth National**
3 **Freedom Day**

4 FOR the purpose of designating a certain day for Juneteenth National Freedom Day as a
5 State legal holiday and State employee holiday; repealing the requirement that the
6 Governor declare a certain day as Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and generally
7 relating to Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – General Provisions
10 Section 1–111
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

13 BY repealing
14 Article – General Provisions
15 Section 7–411
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
20 Section 9–201
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Preamble

WHEREAS, The holiday of “Juneteenth” celebrates the notification on June 19, 1865, to the last slaves, in the state of Texas, that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has come to symbolize for many African Americans the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1997, the United States Senate adopted a joint resolution recognizing Juneteenth as the true Independence Day for African American citizens, and in recent years both the Senate and the United States House of Representatives have passed annual resolutions commemorating June 19 as Juneteenth Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is celebrated annually in more than 205 cities, commemorated in 47 states, and designated as a paid state holiday in Texas; and

WHEREAS, When the Maryland legislature passed a resolution on November 1, 1864, freeing all slaves in the State, Baltimore was the African American capital of the United States, with the 30,000 free blacks in Baltimore City and 5,400 slaves in the State making up 13 to 15 percent of the population of the State; and

WHEREAS, It is important to the descendants of those free blacks and slaves, to all other African American citizens of Maryland, and to all citizens of Maryland regardless of their racial or ethnic background that this important moment in our country’s and our State’s history be formally recognized within the State; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – General Provisions

1–111.

(a) In this Code and any regulation or directive adopted under it, “legal holiday” means:

(1) January 1, for New Year’s Day;

(2) (i) January 15, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday; or

(ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, the day designated by the United States Congress;

(3) February 12, for Lincoln’s birthday;

1 (4) the third Monday in February, for Washington's birthday;

2 (5) March 25, for Maryland Day;

3 (6) Good Friday;

4 (7) (i) May 30, for Memorial Day; or

5 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for
6 observance of Memorial Day, the day designated by the United States Congress;

7 (8) **JUNE 19, FOR JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY;**

8 (9) July 4, for Independence Day;

9 [(9)] (10) the first Monday in September, for Labor Day;

10 [(10)] (11) September 12, for Defenders' Day;

11 [(11)] (12) (i) October 12, for Columbus Day; or

12 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for
13 observance of Columbus Day, the day designated by the United States Congress;

14 [(12)] (13) November 11, for Veterans' Day;

15 [(13)] (14) the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;

16 [(14)] (15) the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, for American Indian
17 Heritage Day;

18 [(15)] (16) December 25, for Christmas Day;

19 [(16)] (17) each statewide general election day in the State; and

20 [(17)] (18) each other day that the President of the United States or the
21 Governor designates for general cessation of business.

22 (b) Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Code, a legal holiday shall be
23 observed on:

24 (1) the date specified in subsection (a) of this section; or

25 (2) if that date falls on a Sunday, on the next Monday after that date.

1 [7-411.

2 The Governor annually shall proclaim June 19 as Juneteenth National Freedom
3 Day.]

4 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

5 9-201.

6 In this title, “employee holiday” includes:

7 (1) January 1, for New Year’s Day;

8 (2) January 15, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, unless the
9 United States Congress designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in
10 which case, the day designated by the United States Congress;

11 (3) the third Monday in February, for Presidents’ Day;

12 (4) May 30, for Memorial Day, unless the United States Congress
13 designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the day
14 designated by the United States Congress;

15 (5) **JUNE 19, FOR JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY;**

16 (6) July 4, for Independence Day;

17 [(6)] (7) the first Monday in September, for Labor Day;

18 [(7)] (8) October 12, for Columbus Day, unless the United States
19 Congress designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the
20 day designated by the United States Congress;

21 [(8)] (9) November 11, for Veterans’ Day;

22 [(9)] (10) the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;

23 [(10)] (11) the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, for American Indian
24 Heritage Day;

25 [(11)] (12) December 25, for Christmas Day;

26 [(12)] (13) each statewide general election day in this State; and

27 [(13)] (14) each other day that the President of the United States or the
28 Governor designates for general cessation of business.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
2 1, 2021.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.