

---

HOUSE BILL 1870

---

State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Pedersen, Ross, Lovick, Bailey, Hunt, Hasegawa, Pettigrew, Skinner, Flannigan, Darneille, Roberts, Newhouse, Hankins, Walsh, Appleton, Santos, Lantz, McCoy, Rodne, Schual-Berke, Ormsby, Upthegrove, Morrell, Kessler, Williams, Kenney and McDermott

Read first time 01/30/2007.                      Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1            AN ACT Relating to a Washington state day of remembrance for  
2 Juneteenth; amending RCW 1.16.050; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that on June 19,  
5 1865, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the  
6 Civil War had ended and the slaves were now free; that this was two and  
7 a half years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation  
8 Proclamation on January 1, 1863; that the end of slavery brought on new  
9 challenges and realities in establishing a previously nonexistent  
10 status for African-Americans in the United States; that racism and  
11 continued inequality is the legacy of slavery and acknowledging it is  
12 the first step in its eradication; and that since 1980 June 19th has  
13 been celebrated as Juneteenth across the United States as a day for  
14 people to come together in the spirit of reconciliation to commemorate  
15 the contributions of African-Americans to this country's history and  
16 culture.

17            The legislature declares that an annual day of recognition be  
18 observed in remembrance of the day the slaves realized they were free  
19 as a reminder that individual rights and freedoms must never be denied.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 1.16.050 and 2003 c 68 s 2 are each amended to read as  
2 follows:

3       The following are legal holidays:    Sunday; the first day of  
4 January, commonly called New Year's Day; the third Monday of January,  
5 being celebrated as the anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King,  
6 Jr.; the third Monday of February to be known as Presidents' Day and to  
7 be celebrated as the anniversary of the births of Abraham Lincoln and  
8 George Washington; the last Monday of May, commonly known as Memorial  
9 Day; the fourth day of July, being the anniversary of the Declaration  
10 of Independence; the first Monday in September, to be known as Labor  
11 Day; the eleventh day of November, to be known as Veterans' Day; the  
12 fourth Thursday in November, to be known as Thanksgiving Day; the day  
13 immediately following Thanksgiving Day; and the twenty-fifth day of  
14 December, commonly called Christmas Day.

15       Employees of the state and its political subdivisions, except  
16 employees of school districts and except those nonclassified employees  
17 of institutions of higher education who hold appointments or are  
18 employed under contracts to perform services for periods of less than  
19 twelve consecutive months, shall be entitled to one paid holiday per  
20 calendar year in addition to those specified in this section. Each  
21 employee of the state or its political subdivisions may select the day  
22 on which the employee desires to take the additional holiday provided  
23 for herein after consultation with the employer pursuant to guidelines  
24 to be promulgated by rule of the appropriate personnel authority, or in  
25 the case of local government by ordinance or resolution of the  
26 legislative authority.

27       If any of the above specified state legal holidays are also federal  
28 legal holidays but observed on different dates, only the state legal  
29 holidays shall be recognized as a paid legal holiday for employees of  
30 the state and its political subdivisions except that for port districts  
31 and the law enforcement and public transit employees of municipal  
32 corporations, either the federal or the state legal holiday, but in no  
33 case both, may be recognized as a paid legal holiday for employees.

34       Whenever any legal holiday, other than Sunday, falls upon a Sunday,  
35 the following Monday shall be the legal holiday.

36       Whenever any legal holiday falls upon a Saturday, the preceding  
37 Friday shall be the legal holiday.

1 Nothing in this section shall be construed to have the effect of  
2 adding or deleting the number of paid holidays provided for in an  
3 agreement between employees and employers of political subdivisions of  
4 the state or as established by ordinance or resolution of the local  
5 government legislative authority.

6 The legislature declares that the twelfth day of October shall be  
7 recognized as Columbus Day but shall not be considered a legal holiday  
8 for any purposes.

9 The legislature declares that the ninth day of April shall be  
10 recognized as former prisoner of war recognition day but shall not be  
11 considered a legal holiday for any purposes.

12 The legislature declares that the twenty-sixth day of January shall  
13 be recognized as Washington army and air national guard day but shall  
14 not be considered a legal holiday for any purposes.

15 The legislature declares that the seventh day of August shall be  
16 recognized as purple heart recipient recognition day but shall not be  
17 considered a legal holiday for any purposes.

18 The legislature declares that the second Sunday in October be  
19 recognized as Washington state children's day but shall not be  
20 considered a legal holiday for any purposes.

21 The legislature declares that the sixteenth day of April shall be  
22 recognized as Mother Joseph day and the fourth day of September as  
23 Marcus Whitman day, but neither shall be considered legal holidays for  
24 any purpose.

25 The legislature declares that the seventh day of December be  
26 recognized as Pearl Harbor remembrance day but shall not be considered  
27 a legal holiday for any purpose.

28 The legislature declares that the nineteenth day of February be  
29 recognized as civil liberties day of remembrance but shall not be  
30 considered a legal holiday for any purpose.

31 The legislature declares that the nineteenth day of June be  
32 recognized as Juneteenth, a day of remembrance for the day the slaves  
33 learned of their freedom, but shall not be considered a legal holiday  
34 for any purpose.

--- END ---