

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1460

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to a Washington state day of remembrance.

Brief Description: Creating a Washington state day of civil liberties remembrance.

Sponsors: By Representatives Pettigrew, Santos, Sullivan, Chase, Linville, Schual-Berke, Veloria, Rockefeller, Conway, Darneille, Wallace, Upthegrove, Kenney and McDermott.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government: 2/25/03, 2/28/03 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/12/03, 96-0.

Passed Senate: 4/9/03, 49-0.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Bill

- February 19 is recognized as Civil Liberties Day of Remembrance.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Haigh, Chair; Miloscia, Vice Chair; Armstrong, Ranking Minority Member; Shabro, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Hunt, McDermott, Nixon, Tom and Wallace.

Staff: Anne Warwick (786-7291).

Background:

Sixty-one years ago, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This order authorized the military to: 1) designate military areas; and 2) remove any person considered a danger. On March 2, 1942, Lt. General John L. DeWitt, West Coast Commander U.S. Army, issued Public Proclamation No. 1 which designated the entire West coast a restricted military area. The Army issued the first Civilian Exclusion Order for Japanese Americans on

Bainbridge Island on March 24, 1942. By June 1942 more than 110,000 Japanese had been forced from their homes and into temporary assembly centers. Over 7,000 residents from Bellevue, Renton, Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, and Seattle were sent to Camp Harmony, a temporary assembly center on the grounds of the Puyallup Fair. From the temporary assembly centers, Japanese Americans were moved to 10 concentration camps scattered throughout the west. After the war, these Japanese Americans returned home. In 1988 HR 442 was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan which provided reparations for surviving internees. Beginning in 1990, \$20,000 in redress payments were sent to all eligible Japanese Americans.

Summary of Bill:

February 19 is recognized as Civil Liberties Day of Remembrance, but is not considered a legal holiday.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This will not be a legal holiday, but a day for educators and others to simply acknowledge the tragedies of that time period. This is a great bill, and it passed the House last year.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Pettigrew, prime sponsor.