

HB 2168 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes findings regarding June 19th, or Juneteenth. Establishes Juneteenth on June 19 as a legal state holiday. Takes effect 91 days following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

June 19th of each year commemorates the emancipation from slavery of those who had been slaves in the United States and is also known as Juneteenth, Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, and Freedom Day. Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed, when Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order Number 3 announcing the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery. Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas in 1866 with community-centric events, such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, historical and cultural readings, and musical performances.

Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth a holiday in 1980. Since then, 47 states and the District of Columbia have commemorated the day by marking it either as a state holiday or observance. In Oregon, the Legislative Assembly adopted Senate Joint Resolution 31 in 2001, which resolved that the members of the Seventy-first Legislative Assembly "do hereby declare Juneteenth, June 19 of each year, to be a day for celebration statewide of the dignity and freedom of all citizens."

House Bill 2168 establishes Juneteenth on June 19 as a legal state holiday.