

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2168**

Ordered by the Senate May 25  
Including Senate Amendments dated May 25

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for Office of the Governor)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Establishes Juneteenth as legal state holiday.  
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to Juneteenth; amending ORS 187.010; and prescribing an effective date.

3       Whereas June 19th of each year commemorates the emancipation from slavery of those who had  
4 been slaves in the United States; and

5       Whereas June 19th is also known as Juneteenth, Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day and Freedom  
6 Day; and

7       Whereas Juneteenth is the oldest African American holiday observance in the United States;  
8 and

9       Whereas Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, commemorates an important step toward the abolition  
10 of slavery and is the date on which Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and  
11 issued General Order Number 3, requiring the immediate freedom of more than 250,000 enslaved  
12 African Americans in Texas; and

13       Whereas on September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the celebrated Emancipation Procla-  
14 mation warning Confederate States that he would declare their slaves "forever free"; and

15       Whereas enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation occurred only in Confederate States  
16 that were under Union Army control; and

17       Whereas Texas was the most remote and geographically isolated and therefore last of the Con-  
18 federate States to receive orders requiring the end of slavery; and

19       Whereas on June 19th, 1865, Union troops marched throughout Galveston reading to the people  
20 of Galveston that all slaves were free; and

21       Whereas the former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations; and

22       Whereas Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas the following year; and

23       Whereas Juneteenth commemorates the indomitable spirit of African Americans who were first  
24 brought to this country stacked and shackled in the bottom of slave ships in a months-long journey  
25 across the Atlantic Ocean known as the "Middle Passage"; and

26       Whereas 2021 marks more than 400 years since the first arrival of Africans in colonial America,  
27 and the United States Congress established the 400 Years of African-American History Commission  
28 to commemorate the historic heritage and contributions that Americans of African descent have

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 made in shaping the cultural, academic, social, economic and moral attributes of this nation; and

2 Whereas the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s saw a resurgence of interest in  
3 Juneteenth, along with renewed community celebrations of the day; and

4 Whereas a growing number of American and African American cultural institutions have spon-  
5 sored Juneteenth cultural events designed to make all Americans aware of this celebration; and

6 Whereas Juneteenth celebrations are a tribute to those African Americans who fought so long  
7 for freedom and worked so hard to make the dream of equality a reality; and

8 Whereas Juneteenth is a day to honor and reflect on the significant ways that African Ameri-  
9 cans have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting freedom, brotherhood  
10 and equality; and

11 Whereas Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and  
12 achievement; and

13 Whereas Juneteenth is marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, reflection and  
14 rejoicing; and

15 Whereas in recognition of the many ways in which the history and culture of African Ameri-  
16 cans, and the advancements, discoveries and achievements of African Americans, have contributed  
17 to the history, culture and social fabric of the State of Oregon, the Legislative Assembly finds that  
18 establishing Juneteenth as a legal holiday is appropriate; now, therefore,

19 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

20 **SECTION 1.** ORS 187.010 is amended to read:

21 187.010. (1) The following days are legal holidays in this state:

22 (a) Each Sunday.

23 (b) New Year's Day on January 1.

24 (c) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday on the third Monday in January.

25 (d) Presidents Day, for the purpose of commemorating Presidents Washington and Lincoln, on  
26 the third Monday in February.

27 (e) Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

28 **(f) Juneteenth on June 19.**

29 [(f)] **(g)** Independence Day on July 4.

30 [(g)] **(h)** Labor Day on the first Monday in September.

31 [(h)] **(i)** Veterans Day on November 11.

32 [(i)] **(j)** Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday in November.

33 [(j)] **(k)** Christmas Day on December 25.

34 (2) Each time a holiday, other than Sunday, listed in subsection (1) of this section falls on Sun-  
35 day, the succeeding Monday shall be a legal holiday. Each time a holiday listed in subsection (1)  
36 of this section falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be a legal holiday.

37 (3) Any act authorized, required or permitted to be performed on a holiday as designated in this  
38 section may be performed on the next succeeding business day; and no liability or loss of rights of  
39 any kind shall result from such delay.

40 (4) In enumerating legal holidays in subsection (1) of this section, the Legislative Assembly does  
41 not intend to limit or otherwise affect public or private collective bargaining or collective bargain-  
42 ing agreements.

43 **SECTION 2.** This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021  
44 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.