

House Bill 2168

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 **as introduced**.

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

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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

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

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

8 Whereas Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America
9 were freed, when Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and issued General
10 Order Number 3, requiring the immediate freedom of more than 250,000 enslaved African Americans
11 in Texas; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Whereas 2021 marks more than 400 years since the first arrival of Africans in colonial America,
26 and the United States Congress established the 400 Years of African-American History Commission
27 to commemorate the historic heritage and contributions that Americans of African descent have
28 made in shaping the cultural, academic, social, economic and moral attributes of this nation; and

29 Whereas the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s saw a resurgence of interest in
30 Juneteenth, along with renewed community celebrations of the day; and
31

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

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

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

8 Whereas Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and
9 achievement; and

10 Whereas Juneteenth is marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, reflection and
11 rejoicing; and

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

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

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

18 187.010. (1) The following days are legal holidays in this state:

19 (a) Each Sunday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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