

House Bill 1146

By: Representatives Teague of the 58th, Mobley of the 69th, Brooks of the 54th, Anderson of the 116th and Mangham of the 75th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate the nineteenth day of June in each year as a
3 legal holiday and as "Juneteenth Celebration Day" in Georgia; to provide an additional day
4 for closing state offices for public and legal holidays; to provide an explanation of the
5 significance of June 19, 1865; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
9 observances, is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 1-4-1, relating
10 to public and legal holidays and leave for certain religious holidays, and inserting in lieu
11 thereof the following:

12 "(a) The State of Georgia shall recognize and observe as public and legal holidays:

13 (1) All days which have been designated as of January 1, 1984, as public and legal
14 holidays by the federal government; and

15 (2) All other days designated and proclaimed by the Governor as public and legal
16 holidays or as days of fasting and prayer or other religious observance. In such
17 designation the Governor shall include at least one of the following dates: January 19,
18 April 26, or June 3, or a suitable date in lieu thereof to commemorate the event or events
19 now observed by such dates. In such designation the Governor shall include June 19.

20 (b) The Governor shall close all state offices and facilities a minimum of ~~12~~ 13 days
21 throughout the year and not more than ~~12~~ 13 days in observance of the public and legal
22 holidays and other days set forth in subsection (a) of this Code section and shall specify the
23 days state offices and facilities shall be closed for such observances."

SECTION 2.

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2 Said chapter is further amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code
3 Section 1-4-15 to read as follows:

4 "1-4-15.

5 The nineteenth day of June in each year is designated as 'Juneteenth Celebration Day' in
6 commemoration of June 19, 1865, when 200,000 former Texas slaves began to celebrate
7 their freedom upon hearing news of the Emancipation Proclamation and the official end
8 of the Civil War."

SECTION 3.

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10 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.