

SENATE BILL 615

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2000 Regular Session
0lr0953

By: **Senators Conway, Currie, Exum, Hughes, Lawlah, McFadden, and Mitchell**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Holiday - "Juneteenth"**

3 FOR the purpose of making a certain date the legal State holiday of Juneteenth; and
4 providing that Juneteenth is a paid holiday for State employees.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation
7 Section 27
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - State Personnel and Pensions
12 Section 9-201
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

15 **Preamble**

16 WHEREAS, The holiday of "Juneteenth", celebrates the notification on June
17 19, 1865, to the last slaves, in the state of Texas, that President Abraham Lincoln had
18 signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

19 WHEREAS, Juneteenth has come to symbolize for many African Americans the
20 triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States Senate in 1997 adopted a joint resolution
22 recognizing Juneteenth as the true Independence Day for African American citizens;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Juneteenth is celebrated annually in more than 205 cities and is a
25 legal state holiday in Texas, Oklahoma, and Iowa; and

1 WHEREAS, When the Maryland legislature passed a resolution on November 1,
2 1864 freeing all slaves in the State, Baltimore was the African American capital of the
3 United States, with the 30,000 free blacks in Baltimore City and 5,400 slaves in the
4 State making up 13 to 15 percent of the population of the State; and

5 WHEREAS, It is important to the descendants of those free blacks and slaves,
6 and to all other African American citizens of Maryland that this important moment in
7 our country's and our State's history be formally recognized within the State; now,
8 therefore,

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

11 **Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation**

12 27.

13 (a) In this Code and any rule, regulation, or directive adopted under it, "legal
14 holiday" means:

15 (1) January 1, for New Year's Day;

16 (2) January 15, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, unless the
17 United States Congress designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in
18 which case, the day designated by the United States Congress;

19 (3) February 12, for Lincoln's birthday;

20 (4) The third Monday in February, for Washington's birthday;

21 (5) March 25, for Maryland Day;

22 (6) Good Friday;

23 (7) May 30, for Memorial Day, unless the United States Congress
24 designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the day
25 designated by the United States Congress;

26 (8) JUNE 19, FOR JUNETEENTH;

27 [(8)] (9) July 4, for Independence Day;

28 [(9)] (10) The first Monday in September, for Labor Day;

29 [(10)] (11) September 12, for Defenders' Day;

30 [(11)] (12) October 12, for Columbus Day, unless the United States
31 Congress designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case,
32 the day designated by the United States Congress;

33 [(12)] (13) November 11, for Veterans' Day;

1 [(11)] (12) December 25, for Christmas Day;
2 [(12)] (13) each statewide general election day in this State; and
3 [(13)] (14) each other day that the President of the United States or the
4 Governor designates for general cessation of business.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2000.