

HOUSE BILL 227

P1
HB 448/21 – HGO

2lr0321

By: **Delegate Harrison**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Legal and Employee Holiday – Juneteenth National**
3 **Independence Day**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing Juneteenth National Independence Day as a State legal
5 holiday and State employee holiday; repealing the requirement that the Governor
6 declare a certain day as Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and generally relating
7 to Juneteenth National Independence Day.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – General Provisions
10 Section 1–111
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY repealing
14 Article – General Provisions
15 Section 7–411
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
20 Section 9–201
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

23 Preamble

24 WHEREAS, The holiday of “Juneteenth” celebrates the notification on June 19,
25 1865, to the last slaves, in the state of Texas, that President Abraham Lincoln had signed
26 the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 WHEREAS, On June 17, 2021, the United States Congress enacted legislation
4 declaring Juneteenth National Independence Day to be a legal public holiday; and

5 WHEREAS, Juneteenth is celebrated annually in more than 205 cities,
6 commemorated in 49 states, and designated as a paid state holiday in Texas, New York,
7 Virginia, Washington, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Oregon; and

8 WHEREAS, When the Maryland legislature passed a resolution on November 1,
9 1864, freeing all slaves in the State, Baltimore was the African American capital of the
10 United States, with the 30,000 free blacks in Baltimore City and 5,400 slaves in the State
11 making up 13 to 15 percent of the population of the State; and

12 WHEREAS, It is important to the descendants of those free blacks and slaves, to all
13 other African American citizens of Maryland, and to all citizens of Maryland regardless of
14 their racial or ethnic background that this important moment in our country's and our
15 State's history be formally recognized within the State; now, therefore,

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

18 **Article – General Provisions**

19 1–111.

20 (a) In this Code and any regulation or directive adopted under it, “legal holiday”
21 means:

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

23 (2) (i) January 15, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday; or

24 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for
25 observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the day designated by the United
26 States Congress;

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

28 (4) the third Monday in February, for Washington's birthday;

29 (5) March 25, for Maryland Day;

30 (6) Good Friday;

1 9–201.

2 In this title, “employee holiday” includes:

3 (1) January 1, for New Year’s Day;

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

7 (3) the third Monday in February, for Presidents’ Day;

8 (4) May 30, for Memorial Day, unless the United States Congress
9 designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the day
10 designated by the United States Congress;

11 (5) **JUNE 19, FOR JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY;**

12 (6) July 4, for Independence Day;

13 [(6)] (7) the first Monday in September, for Labor Day;

14 [(7)] (8) October 12, for Columbus Day, unless the United States
15 Congress designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the
16 day designated by the United States Congress;

17 [(8)] (9) November 11, for Veterans’ Day;

18 [(9)] (10) the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;

19 [(10)] (11) the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, for American Indian
20 Heritage Day;

21 [(11)] (12) December 25, for Christmas Day;

22 [(12)] (13) each statewide general election day in this State; and

23 [(13)] (14) each other day that the President of the United States or the
24 Governor designates for general cessation of business.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
26 1, 2022.