

Testimony Against SB0139

Honorable Senators

Please enter an unfavorable report against SB0139.

I am against

- Establishing November 1 as Maryland Emancipation Day and as a State legal holiday and State employee holiday; and
- repealing the requirement that the Governor declare a certain day as Maryland Emancipation Day.

Why do we need to establish a State holiday to commemorate emancipation from slavery when the federal government essentially did it nationwide by creating the Juneteenth Holiday?

I believe we should leave the current process in place where the Governor proclaims each November 1 to be Maryland Emancipation Day.

If the intent of this bill is to obtain greater recognition of November 1, 1864 as the day slaves were liberated in Maryland when the new state constitution went into effect, perhaps it would be better to have a better public relations campaign than a new state holiday.

So please enter an unfavorable report against SB0139

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March 13, 2025