

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY REPRESENTATIVES JAMES, BRASS, BRYANT, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, COX, DUPLESSIS, GAINES, GLOVER, GREEN, HUGHES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, DUSTIN MILLER, MOORE, NEWELL, PHELPS, PIERRE, SELDERS, AND WILLARD

HOLIDAYS: Requests the governor and the legislature to take such actions as are necessary to observe Juneteenth as a state holiday

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the governor and the legislature of Louisiana to take such actions as are  
3 necessary to recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth Day and to observe  
4 Juneteenth as a state holiday.

5 WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United  
6 States, and in particular the southwestern states, for more than two and a half years after  
7 President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued on January 1, 1863, and  
8 months after the conclusion of the Civil War; and

9 WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an annual observance and celebration of the date Union  
10 soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining slaves in Galveston,  
11 Texas, on June 19, 1865; and

12 WHEREAS, since 1865, the day has been celebrated as the day African-Americans  
13 received the news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

14 WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the strength and resolve of  
15 African-Americans throughout our history, and is an opportunity to highlight the value of  
16 African-American culture, art, history, and achievement; and

17 WHEREAS, the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part  
18 of the history and heritage of the United States; and

1           WHEREAS, for more than one hundred fifty years, Juneteenth Day celebrations have  
2 been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and  
3 respect for all cultures; and

4           WHEREAS, forty-six states and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth  
5 Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the  
6 United States; and

7           WHEREAS, in 1997, the 105th United States Congress officially recognized  
8 Juneteenth as the observance of Independence Day of Americans of African descent; and

9           WHEREAS, Juneteenth reflects our belief in liberty and equality for every citizen,  
10 as everyone can benefit from a greater understanding and appreciation of the experiences of  
11 others.

12           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor and the legislature of  
14 Louisiana to take such actions as are necessary to recognize the historical significance of  
15 Juneteenth Day and to observe Juneteenth as a state holiday.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 63 Original

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James

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