

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Jackson
(32nd), Frazier, Horhn, Simmons, Dawkins,
Turner, Thomas, Butler, Jordan, Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 568

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE THIRD SATURDAY OF
2 JUNE, IN 2007 AND IN EACH SUCCEEDING YEAR, AS "JUNETEENTH" FREEDOM
3 DAY IN MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, the date of June 19 is known as "Juneteenth," and it
5 is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of
6 slavery in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, the commemoration of June 19th as Juneteenth
8 specifically refers to the fact that, even though President
9 Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the
10 joyous news of freedom from slavery did not reach certain
11 Americans in Galveston, Texas, until June 19, 1865; and

12 WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates freedom from slavery in
13 America, emphasizes education and achievement, and is a time for
14 reflection and rejoicing in the African-American experience; and

15 WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth is inclusive of all
16 races, ethnicities, religions and nationalities, in that citizens
17 across our country join hands in acknowledging a period in our
18 history that has influenced our society, a great society, that
19 advances the ideals of liberty and justice for all and
20 acknowledges the great advances in race relations which have
21 occurred in the State of Mississippi over the past generation; and

22 WHEREAS, Mississippi will again be set apart as a national
23 leader in seeking to bridge a difficult past and complicated
24 present to attain a harmonious and prosperous future, and the
25 commemoration of "Juneteenth" offers an occasion to remember the
26 bonds of our unity and common destiny:

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
28 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
29 the third Saturday of June in 2007, and in each succeeding year,
30 be designated as "Juneteenth" Freedom Day in Mississippi.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby call upon the
32 people of the State of Mississippi to reflect upon the significant
33 roles and many contributions of African-Americans to Mississippi
34 and the nation throughout history and today, and to celebrate this
35 day with appropriate activities and events that honor this rich
36 legacy.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall
38 transmit a copy of this resolution to the State Superintendent of
39 Education, the Director of the State Board of Community and Junior
40 Colleges, the Commissioner of Higher Education and to members of
41 Mississippi's congressional delegation for dissemination to their
42 students and respective constituents, and the Secretary of the
43 Senate shall post the designation of this day on the Legislature's
44 Web site, so that all citizens may be apprised of the sense of the
45 Legislature in this matter.