

By Senator Hill

1-02402-08

2008826__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Juneteenth Independence Day; amending
3 s. 683.21, F.S.; renaming Juneteenth Day as "Juneteenth
4 Independence Day"; requiring the Governor to annually
5 issue a proclamation concerning Juneteenth Independence
6 Day; providing criteria concerning the petition's
7 contents; providing an effective date.
8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
10

11 Section 1. Section 683.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to
12 read:

13 683.21 Juneteenth Independence Day.--

14 (1) June 19th of each year is ~~hereby~~ designated "Juneteenth
15 Independence Day" to commemorate the traditional observance of
16 the day the slaves in Florida were notified of the Emancipation
17 Proclamation and in recognition of June 19, 1865, when Union
18 General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the
19 southwestern United States.

20 (2) The Governor shall annually ~~may~~ issue ~~annually~~ a
21 proclamation designating June 19th as Juneteenth Independence
22 Day, to be observed on the Saturday that is closest to June 19th,
23 recognizing the end of slavery in the United States and the
24 significant contributions that individuals of African descent
25 have made to this state and the United States, and calling on
26 public officials, schools, private organizations, and all members
27 of the public ~~citizens~~ to honor the historic significance of the
28 day and observe the day in an appropriate manner.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.