

# HOUSE BILL 227

P1  
HB 448/21 – HGO

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By: ~~Delegate Harrison~~ Delegates Harrison, Bagnall, Belcastro, Bhandari, Carr, Cullison, Hill, Johnson, Kaiser, Kelly, Kerr, Kipke, Landis, R. Lewis, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Rosenberg, Saab, Sample-Hughes, and K. Young

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2022  
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 15, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 9–201  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

4 Preamble

5 WHEREAS, The holiday of “Juneteenth” celebrates the notification on June 19,  
6 1865, to the last slaves, in the state of Texas, that President Abraham Lincoln had signed  
7 the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, When the Maryland legislature passed a resolution on November 1,  
16 1864, freeing all slaves in the State, Baltimore was the African American capital of the  
17 United States, with the 30,000 free blacks in Baltimore City and 5,400 slaves in the State  
18 making up 13 to 15 percent of the population of the State; and

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

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

25 **Article – General Provisions**

26 1–111.

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

29 (1) January 1, for New Year’s Day;

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

31 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for  
32 observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, the day designated by the United  
33 States Congress;

- 1 (3) February 12, for Lincoln's birthday;
- 2 (4) the third Monday in February, for Washington's birthday;
- 3 (5) March 25, for Maryland Day;
- 4 (6) Good Friday;
- 5 (7) (i) May 30, for Memorial Day; or
- 6 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for  
7 observance of Memorial Day, the day designated by the United States Congress;
- 8 (8) **JUNE 19, FOR JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY;**
- 9 (9) July 4, for Independence Day;
- 10 [(9)] (10) the first Monday in September, for Labor Day;
- 11 [(10)] (11) September 12, for Defenders' Day;
- 12 [(11)] (12) (i) October 12, for Columbus Day; or
- 13 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for  
14 observance of Columbus Day, the day designated by the United States Congress;
- 15 [(12)] (13) November 11, for Veterans' Day;
- 16 [(13)] (14) the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;
- 17 [(14)] (15) the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, for American Indian  
18 Heritage Day;
- 19 [(15)] (16) December 25, for Christmas Day;
- 20 [(16)] (17) each statewide general election day in the State; and
- 21 [(17)] (18) each other day that the President of the United States or the  
22 Governor designates for general cessation of business.
- 23 (b) Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Code, a legal holiday shall be  
24 observed on:
- 25 (1) the date specified in subsection (a) of this section; or

1 (2) if that date falls on a Sunday, on the next Monday after that date.

2 [7-411.

3 The Governor annually shall proclaim June 19 as Juneteenth National Freedom  
4 Day.]

5 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

6 9-201.

7 In this title, “employee holiday” includes:

8 (1) January 1, for New Year’s Day;

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

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

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

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

17 (6) July 4, for Independence Day;

18 [(6)] (7) the first Monday in September, for Labor Day;

19 [(7)] (8) October 12, for Columbus Day, unless the United States  
20 Congress designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the  
21 day designated by the United States Congress;

22 [(8)] (9) November 11, for Veterans’ Day;

23 [(9)] (10) the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;

24 [(10)] (11) the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, for American Indian  
25 Heritage Day;

26 [(11)] (12) December 25, for Christmas Day;

27 [(12)] (13) each statewide general election day in this State; and

1                    [(13)] (14) each other day that the President of the United States or the  
2 Governor designates for general cessation of business.

3                    SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
4 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.