



SPONSOR: Rep. Dorsey Walker & Sen. Brown & Rep. Bolden & Rep. Chukwuocha & Rep. Cooke & Rep. Harris & Rep. K. Johnson & Rep. Lambert & Rep. Minor-Brown & Rep. S. Moore & Rep. Neal & Rep. Parker Selby & Rep. Phillips & Rep. Wilson-Anton & Sen. Lockman & Sen. Pinkney
Reps. Baumbach, Schwartzkopf; Sens. Buckson, Gay, Hansen, Hocker, Hoffner, Huxtable, Lawson, Mantzavinos, S. McBride, Paradee, Pettyjohn, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon, Townsend, Walsh, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2023, AS "JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, the final Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863,
2 which changed the federal legal status of over 3.5 million enslaved African Americans in designated areas of the south from
3 slave to free, although the implementation of Lincoln's order came slowly over the duration of the Civil War; and

4 WHEREAS, June 19, 1865, is recognized as the date the Union General Gordon Granger, upon arriving in
5 Galveston, Texas, issued General Order Number Three, which notified the last enslaved Americans in southern areas
6 denoted in the Emancipation Proclamation of their new legal status; and

7 WHEREAS, General Granger's General Order Number Three was issued nearly two and a half years after the
8 final issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, over a month after the end of the Civil War; and

9 WHEREAS, slavery was officially outlawed across the entire United States on December 18, 1865, with the
10 ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which freed slaves in the final two slave states in America—
11 Kentucky and Delaware; and

12 WHEREAS, African Americans who had been enslaved in the south thereafter celebrated June 19th as "Juneteenth
13 National Independence Day" to signify the anniversary of their emancipation; and

14 WHEREAS, the freed Women and Men handed down this tradition from generation to generation as inspiration
15 and encouragement for future generations; and

16 WHEREAS, this year marks the 158th anniversary of Juneteenth National Independence Day, which calls for
17 celebrations to honor the memory of all those who endured slavery, especially those who moved from slavery to freedom
18 and to encourage self-development and respect for all cultures; and

19 WHEREAS, the history behind celebrating Juneteenth should be remembered as the event continues to receive
20 increased recognition across the country and the world; and

21 WHEREAS, the example of faith, hope, love, strength and character of those who endured and overcame slavery
22 remains a lesson for all Americans today, regardless of background, region or race.

23 NOW, THEREFORE:

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
25 Senate concurring therein, that June 19, 2023, is hereby recognized as “Juneteenth National Independence Day” in the State
26 of Delaware.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delaware House of Representatives and Senate do hereby encourage the
28 people of the State of Delaware to reflect upon the significant roles and many contributions of African Americans to
29 Delaware and our country throughout history and today and to celebrate this day with appropriate activities and events that
30 honor this rich legacy.

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution proclaims June 19, 2023. as Juneteenth National Independence Day in Delaware and encourages the people of Delaware to reflect upon the significant roles and many contributions of African Americans and to celebrate this day with appropriate activities and events.