

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 76, *approved September 10, 2020*  
SENATE, NO. 19 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning legal holidays and amending <sup>1</sup>[various parts of  
2 the statutory law] P.L.2008, c.89 and R.S.36:1-1<sup>1</sup>.  
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:  
6

7 <sup>1</sup>[1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President  
9 Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, freeing all enslaved people  
10 living in Confederate states.

11 b. However, it was not until June 19, 1865 that enslaved Black  
12 Americans in Galveston, Texas learned that the Civil War was over,  
13 and they were free.

14 c. It is important to remember that neither the Emancipation  
15 Proclamation nor the end of the Confederacy freed all enslaved  
16 people, instead it only freed enslaved people in the Confederate  
17 states.

18 d. Enslaved people living in Union states that bordered the  
19 Confederacy were not freed until the ratification of the 13th  
20 Amendment on December 6, 1865.

21 e. Additionally, Black Americans were not fully recognized as  
22 citizens until the passage of the 14th Amendment in 1868, and  
23 Black men were largely prevented from voting until the passage of  
24 the 15th Amendment in 1870.

25 f. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, when word of freedom  
26 finally reached the enslaved people in Texas and jubilant  
27 celebrations evolved into a general celebration of freedom.

28 g. Juneteenth is also a reminder for all Americans of the  
29 hardships that Black Americans have endured for centuries in this  
30 country and an example of Black Americans often being the last to  
31 benefit from any change.

32 h. Despite the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments  
33 in the 19th Century, Black Americans were still fighting for civil  
34 rights throughout the 20th Century.

35 i. 100 years following the Emancipation Proclamation and the  
36 Reconstruction Amendments, Black Americans were fighting to  
37 pass civil rights reforms that would truly reflect the message and  
38 meaning behind that proclamation and those amendments.

39 j. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of  
40 1968 were monumental achievements for Black Americans and yet  
41 another, long overdue step in their quest for equality.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted July 27, 2020.

1 k. However, over 50 years later, Black Americans still face  
2 oppression in many forms in the United States.

3 l. Black Americans are often viewed as “less than” by far too  
4 many in the United States, and this view of them is easily  
5 documented in reports on health outcomes, employment, housing,  
6 education, and incarceration.

7 m. For example, the number of Black Americans who have died  
8 during the COVID-19 pandemic is exceedingly disproportionate to  
9 that of other Americans.

10 n. Black Americans are also viewed as a threat by many in the  
11 United States, which often leads to unnecessarily combative and  
12 violent confrontations with police officers in the country.

13 o. While only accounting for 13 percent of the United States  
14 population, Black Americans are killed in over 25 percent of police-  
15 related shootings, often while unarmed and not committing violent  
16 offenses.

17 p. While many in New Jersey may believe this does not relate  
18 to the experiences of Black Americans living in the State, they  
19 would be wrong, as New Jersey has a long history of racism and  
20 discrimination.

21 q. One example is in schools where, even to this day, the vast  
22 majority of Black children in the State attend schools that are over  
23 70 percent minority, segregating them from the white children in  
24 the State.

25 r. Designating Juneteenth as a State holiday may shed a light  
26 on the daily life experiences of Black Americans in this State and  
27 lead to progress, as the time has long passed for Black Americans to  
28 feel safe and equal in the United States.

29 s. Juneteenth can simultaneously serve as a reminder of how  
30 Black Americans are often the last to benefit from good news in this  
31 country and a promise to eliminate this gap in the future.】<sup>1</sup>  
32

33 <sup>1</sup>【2.】 1.<sup>1</sup> Section 25 of P.L.2008, c.89 (C.11A:6-24.1) is  
34 amended to read as follows:

35 25. a. Paid holidays granted to all State government employees  
36 each calendar year shall be limited to the following:

37 (1) January 1, known as New Year's Day;

38 (2) the third Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King's  
39 Birthday;

40 (3) the third Monday in February, known as Washington's  
41 Birthday, which shall be known and celebrated as Presidents Day in  
42 this State;

43 (4) the day designated and known as Good Friday;

44 (5) the last Monday in May, known as Memorial Day;

45 (6) <sup>1</sup>【June 19, known as】 the third Friday in June,<sup>1</sup> Juneteenth  
46 Day;

47 【(6)】 (7) July 4, known as Independence Day;

- 1        **[(7)]** (8) the first Monday in September, known as Labor Day;  
 2        **[(8)]** (9) the second Monday in October, known as Columbus  
 3 Day;  
 4        **[(9)]** (10) November 11, known as Armistice Day or Veterans'  
 5 Day;  
 6        **[(10)]** (11) the fourth Thursday in November, known as  
 7 Thanksgiving Day;  
 8        **[(11)]** (12) December 25, known as Christmas Day; and  
 9        **[(12)]** (13) any general election day in this State.
- 10        b. The provisions of this section shall not impair any collective  
 11 bargaining agreement or contract in effect on the effective date of  
 12 P.L.2008, c.89. The provision of this section shall take effect in the  
 13 calendar year following the expiration of the collective bargaining  
 14 agreements or contracts covering a majority of the Executive  
 15 Branch employees in effect on the effective date of P.L.2008, c.89.  
 16 (cf: P.L.2008, c.89, s.25)

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 18        <sup>1</sup>**[3.]** 2.<sup>1</sup> R.S.36:1-1 is amended to read as follows:

- 19        36:1-1. a. The following days in each year shall, for all  
 20 purposes whatsoever as regards the presenting for payment or  
 21 acceptance, and of the protesting and giving notice of dishonor, of  
 22 bills of exchange, bank checks and promissory notes be treated and  
 23 considered as the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday,  
 24 and as public holidays, except as provided under subsection d. of  
 25 this section: January 1, known as New Year's Day; the third  
 26 Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King's Birthday;  
 27 February 12, known as Lincoln's Birthday; the third Monday in  
 28 February, known as Washington's Birthday; the day designated and  
 29 known as Good Friday; the last Monday in May, known as  
 30 Memorial Day; <sup>1</sup>**[(June 19, known as)]** the third Friday in June,<sup>1</sup>  
 31 Juneteenth Day; July 4, known as Independence Day; the first  
 32 Monday in September, known as Labor Day; the second Monday in  
 33 October, known as Columbus Day; November 11, known as  
 34 Armistice Day or Veterans' Day; the fourth Thursday in November,  
 35 known as Thanksgiving Day; December 25, known as Christmas  
 36 Day; any general election day in this State; every Saturday; and any  
 37 day heretofore or hereafter appointed, ordered or recommended by  
 38 the Governor of this State, or the President of the United States, as a  
 39 day of fasting and prayer, or other religious observance, or as a  
 40 bank holiday or holidays. All such bills, checks and notes,  
 41 otherwise presentable for acceptance or payment on any of the days  
 42 herein enumerated, shall be deemed to be payable and be  
 43 presentable for acceptance or payment on the secular or business  
 44 day next succeeding any such holiday.
- 45        b. Whenever any of the days herein enumerated can and shall  
 46 fall on a Sunday, the Monday next following shall, for any of the  
 47 purposes herein enumerated be deemed a public holiday, except as

1 provided under subsection d. of this section; and bills of exchange,  
2 checks and promissory notes which otherwise would be presentable  
3 for acceptance or payment on such Monday shall be deemed to be  
4 presentable for acceptance or payment on the secular or business  
5 day next succeeding such holiday.

6 c. In construing this section, every Saturday shall, until 12  
7 o'clock noon, be deemed a secular or business day, except as is  
8 hereinbefore provided in regard to bills of exchange, bank checks  
9 and promissory notes, and the days herein enumerated except bank  
10 holidays and Saturdays shall be considered as the first day of the  
11 week, commonly called Sunday, and public holidays, for all  
12 purposes whatsoever as regards the transaction of business in the  
13 public offices of this State, or counties of this State, except as  
14 provided under subsection d. of this section; but on all other days or  
15 half days, except Sunday or as otherwise provided by law, such  
16 offices shall be kept open for the transaction of business.

17 d. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections a. through c.  
18 of this section, when the provisions of this subsection take effect,  
19 the following day each calendar year shall not be considered a  
20 public holiday for the purposes of conducting State government  
21 business:

22 February 12, known as Lincoln's Birthday.

23 All public offices of State government in this State shall be open  
24 on this day for the transaction of business.

25 (cf: P.L.2008, c.89, s.26)

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27 <sup>1</sup>4. Section 2 of P.L.2004, c.3 (C.36:2-80) is amended to read  
28 as follows:

29 2. **【The third Saturday in】** June 19 of each year is hereby  
30 designated as "Juneteenth **【Independence】** Day" in New Jersey to  
31 commemorate and celebrate the emancipation of African-Americans  
32 and foster respect for all cultures.

33 (cf: P.L.2004, c.3, s.2)**】**<sup>1</sup>

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35 <sup>1</sup>**【5.】** 3.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

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40 Designates, as State and public holiday, third Friday in June as  
41 Juneteenth Day.