

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## REPRESENTATIVE STANLEY WRIGHT

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Committees:

Vice Chair [House State Affairs](#)

Chair [House Military & Veterans' Affairs](#)

Member [House Resources](#)

Member [House Labor & Commerce](#)

Member [House Joint Armed Services Committee](#)

Member [House Energy](#)



Juneau, Alaska 99801 (Jan. -April)  
State Capitol, Room 412  
907.465.2095

## House Bill 157 – Proclaim Juneteenth a Holiday

### *Sponsor Statement*

In 1865, union soldiers landed at Galveston, TX. with news that the war had ended. This news meant that enslaved people were now free. Since 1865, people across the world have joined together to celebrate an important day. Juneteenth- also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day- is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of previously enslaved peoples in America. Each year on June 19th, people of all races join one another in fellowship to honor those who gave so much for America and educate themselves about the struggles toward liberation for Black Americans. Juneteenth has been recognized and celebrated throughout Alaska. There have been events ranging from parades to street fairs.

House Bill 157 would make Juneteenth an observed legal state holiday alongside July 4th and Memorial Day. This bill would make Juneteenth a paid state holiday.