

# SENATE BILL 22

“ An act establishing Juneteenth Day as a legal holiday”

April 4, 2023

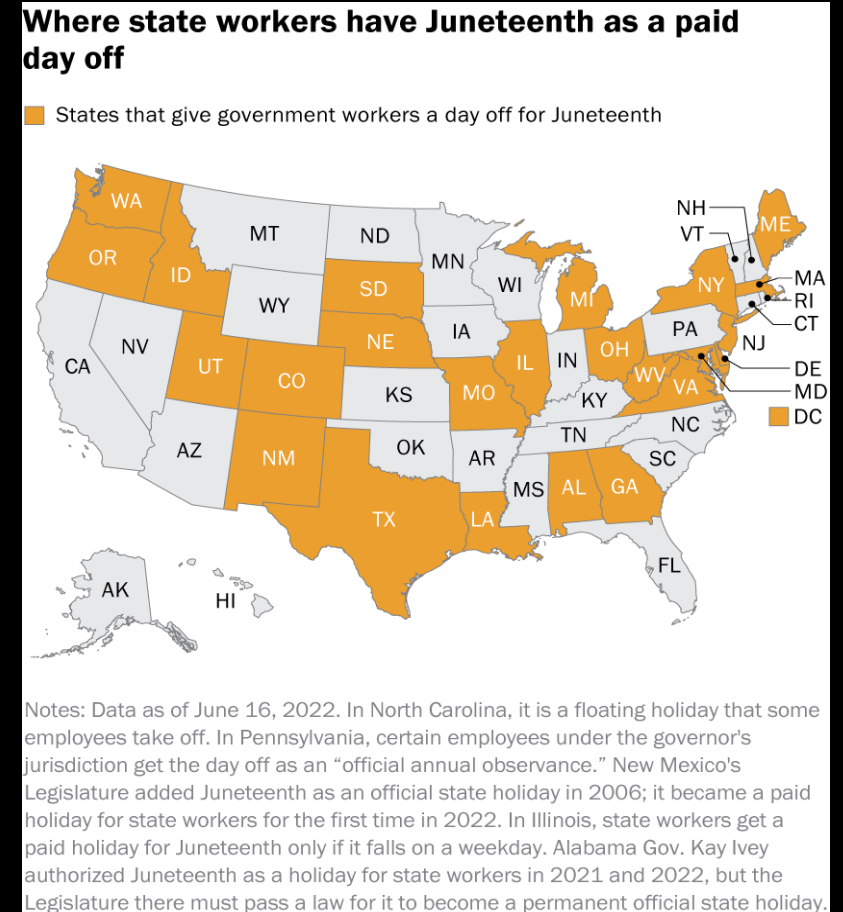
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

# WHAT IS JUNETEENTH

- Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day or Liberation Day, the word 'Juneteenth' resulted from the words 'June Nineteenth' being combined together in speech.
- In 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that freed enslaved people in Texas and all rebellious parts of Southern secessionist states of the Confederacy. However, it was only through the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment that emancipation ended slavery throughout America. Two years later, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce that enslaved people were free by executive decree. This marked the end of 200 plus years of the enslavement of Black Americans! Enslaved people in Texas found out they were free nearly 3 years after the fact.
- In Galveston, Texas, the newly freed individuals held large public celebrations and so laid the base for future Juneteenth activities across America.

# RECOGNITION OF THE DAY

- Texas was the first state to pass legislation that would require that Juneteenth be observed as a state holiday in 1980. Followed by:
  - Florida (1991)
  - Oklahoma (1994)
  - Minnesota (1996)
  - Delaware (2000)
  - Idaho (2001)
- Various companies observe the holiday:
  - Tesla
  - Nike
  - Target
  - NFL
  - Lyft
- Juneteenth celebrations are also held in other countries around the world, including South Korea, Israel, France, Guam, Honduras, Japan, Taiwan, and Trinidad and Tobago.

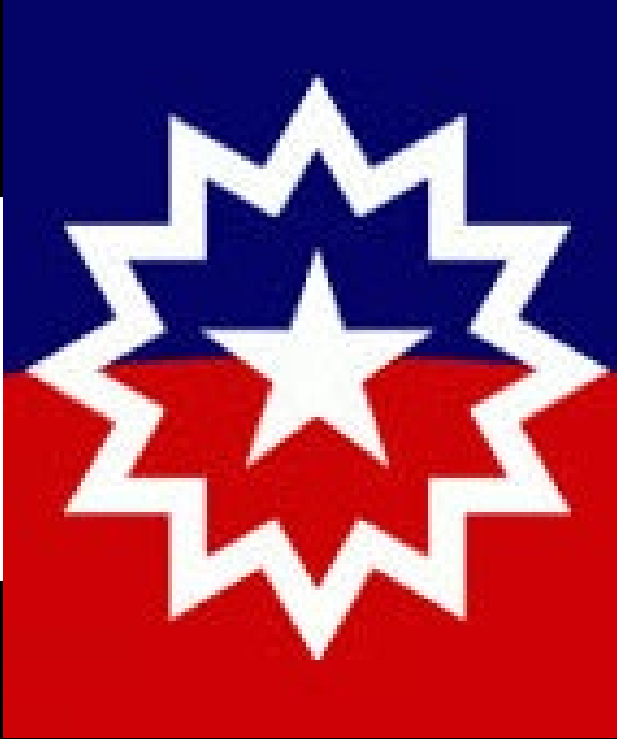


# PAID HOLIDAY RECOGNITION

- On June 11, 2021 President Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday. It is now one of 11 official federal holidays – or 12 for federal workers in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas during presidential inauguration years – meaning that federal workers get a paid day off.
- Most recently, the Anchorage Assembly voted unanimously to make Juneteenth a Municipal holiday.

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR JUNETEENTH TO BECOME A STATE HOLIDAY

- In some states, people employed by the state may have a day off work. Stores and other organizations and businesses are likely to be open as usual, but some may be closed or have restricted opening hours in some areas. Many public transit services operate on their usual schedule, but there may be some changes.



**THANK YOU**