STATE 29

State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION NUMBER 60 JBE 2022

LEGAL STATE HOLIDAY - JUNETEENTH DAY OBSERVED

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana recognize and honor on Juneteenth Day the events of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation had declared all enslaved people to be free nearly two and a half years earlier;

WHEREAS, in 1997, during the 105th United States Congress, House Joint Resolution 56 and Senate Joint Resolution 11 were passed, officially recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day;

WHEREAS, Act 433 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, authored by then-Representative Sharon Weston Broome and co-authors Cleo Fields, Leonard Lucas, Edwin Murray, and Yvonne Welch, enacted Louisiana Revised Statute 1:58.2, which recognizes and designates the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth Day throughout the State of Louisiana, in honor of the day African Americans celebrate as Emancipation Day;

WHEREAS, in the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, Representative Larry Selders, with the entire Legislative Black Caucus as co-authors, authored House Bill 554 recognizing Juneteenth Day as a legal holiday;

WHEREAS, House Bill 554 was signed by the Governor on June 10, 2021 becoming Act 128 of the 2021 Regular Session, effective August 1, 2021;

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 1:55(B)(3) allows the Governor to authorize by proclamation such holidays and half-holidays as he may deem in keeping with efficient administration; and

WHEREAS, observation and celebration of Juneteenth Day in the State of Louisiana improves upon the nation's promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

NOW THEREFORE I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: It is hereby declared that Juneteenth Day, a day of rest and remembrance, will be observed as a legal holiday on Friday, June 17, 2022.

SECTION 2: Insofar as practicable, the appointing authorities and/or heads of all institutions, offices and departments of the State (hereafter "appointing authority") shall permit the officers and employees under their control to observe the Juneteenth Day holiday on Friday, June 17, 2022. Nonetheless, an appointing authority shall have the discretion to require officers or employees to work on the holiday when, in the appointing authority's judgment, it is required for the efficient administration of a State facility, the operation of which is necessary and indispensable to the citizens of this State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge on this 25th day of April, 2022.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE