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Fwd: Capitol Watch: Pritzker Signs Legislation Making Juneteenth Official State Holiday

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>

Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 2:57 PM

To: Bridgett Heinrich <bheinrich@panaschools.com>

For Monday's board meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: IASA <iasa@iasaedu.org>

Date: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 12:19 PM

Subject: Capitol Watch: Pritzker Signs Legislation Making Juneteenth Official State Holiday

To: <jbauer@panaschools.com>

**Pritzker Signs Legislation Making Juneteenth Official State Holiday**

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker signed [House Bill 3922](#) today, declaring June 19, Juneteenth, an official state holiday.

Juneteenth marks the date in 1865 when the last enslaved Black people in the country learned from Union soldiers in Texas that they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. The day is also known as Emancipation Day and Freedom Day.

The new law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2022, will make June 19 a paid day off for all state employees and a school holiday when it falls on a weekday. Because it falls on Sunday in 2022, the first paid state holiday for Juneteenth will be in 2023.

For schools, the new law means June 19 (Juneteenth National Freedom Day) is now listed in the Illinois School Code along with other legal school holidays, such as New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The governor and numerous lawmakers touted the signing of the bill as historic.

"Today, we can all stand proud that Illinois will officially recognize America's second independence day," said House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D-Westchester). "As the first African-American Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, this moment will forever be a treasure in my heart, and I hope it will become a treasure for all Illinoisans. It's a day of remembrance, but also a day of joy and perseverance."

This year, Illinois will lower all flags covered by state law to half-staff on June 19. The state will also, this year and every year in the future, fly a Juneteenth flag over the state Capitol in Springfield.

The change in Illinois comes as momentum has increased in the U.S. Capitol to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.

The Senate unanimously passed a resolution on Tuesday establishing June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day. The measure is expected to pass the House and be signed by President Joe Biden to become law.

If it becomes law, Juneteenth would be the 11th national holiday recognized annually by the federal government.

Sincerely,

6/16/2021

Pana Community Unit School District #8 Mail - Fwd: Capitol Watch: Pritzker Signs Legislation Making Juneteenth Official State Holiday

Diane Hendren
Director of Governmental Relations
Illinois Association of School Administrators

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