



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1655, which authorizes state employees to elect to use their existing eight hours of holiday credit in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit, to observe the new state holiday of June 19, also known as "Juneteenth."

Juneteenth is a federal holiday that commemorates the emancipation of African American slaves. It is a time of remembrance of the cruelty of slavery, celebration of the abolishment of slavery, pride in the profound contributions of African Americans and a time for reflection of how we can each contribute to a more just society.

I am immensely proud of the richness of diversity and backgrounds represented in our state and understand the importance of wanting to see one's own experience reflected in state holidays. While I am signing this bill and two other bills that also mark two significant days, before increasing the number of state holidays beyond the more than a dozen already recognized, I encourage the Legislature to identify criteria to help evaluate and inform future establishment of additional state holidays.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

