

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-350  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGAL  
**Title:** HOLIDAY.  
**Vote Date:** 3/29/2022  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable  
**PH Date:** 3/11/2022  
**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

Juneteenth Independence Day recognizes the end of slavery in the United States. It is a federally recognized holiday, and many states recognize it as a legal holiday.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Commision on Human Rights and Opportunity, State of Connecticut** The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunity supports SB 350. Juneteenth is one of the oldest celebrations commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. It is time for Connecticut to recognize Juneteenth and educate citizen on its history and significance.

**Denise Drummond, Policy Analyst for the African American Sub-Commission of the CWCSEO, State of Connecticut** It is important for Connecticut residents to know the importance of Juneteenth. Juneteenth is an official holiday in other states. This means that state workers have this time off to celebrate and recognize the history of Juneteenth.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Radenka Maric, Interim President, University of Connecticut**  
Adopting Juneteenth as a holiday will encourage residents to reflect on the past and

**Ruby Blackmon, President, AFSCME Council 4 Local 196** Juneteenth is an important cultural and historical day that should be celebrated in Connecticut. It is important to acknowledge African Americans and all they have gone through.

**Harold Brooks, President, AFSCME Local 3144** Other states have already moved to make Juneteenth a state holiday. Celebrating Juneteenth will help acknowledge the past and stimulate conversation to help us a state move forward.

**Shellye Davis, Executive Vice President, Connecticut AFL-CIO** Juneteenth has been recognized as a federal holiday so it would be appropriate to recognize it as a state holiday as well. Recognizing Juneteenth as a state holiday will raise awareness about African American history and promote discussions on matters of race and equity.

**Subira Gordon, Executive Director, ConnCAN** African Americans know little about Juneteenth Day and its history. Connecticut residents would be able to learn more about Juneteenth through time of reflection and recognition through education.

**Carol Ann Jackson, Vice President, Graduate Employee Union (GEU) Local 6950, UConn** Recognition of Juneteenth will help recruit and retain a more diverse workforce. It will also help support diversity and including at Uconn and in the state. Recognizing Juneteenth will acknowledge the various cultures and citizens in Connecticut.

**Kimberly Rice, AFSCME, Local 714** African Americans have suffered years of pain from slavery and the aftereffects of it. American Descendants of Slavery do not get to enjoy the wealth created by slaves. Juneteenth will acknowledge slave and the hardships the endured. There is still more to be done to acknowledge the oppression American Descendants of Slavery still face.

**Jess Zaccagnino, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut** Juneteenth is a significant holiday like Independence Day since it acknowledges the freedom of all citizens. Recognition of Juneteenth will show that Connecticut is not ignoring the history of slavery. Juneteenth allows residents to celebrate a day of freedom.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**David Godbout** Mr. Godbout expressed opposition to the bill due to disagreeing with the virtual procedure followed by the CGA for public hearings.

**Reported by: Grace Carlos**

**Date: 3-29-22**