

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to SB 312:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate June 19 of each year as "Juneteenth"; to provide
3 legislative findings; to provide that September 1 of each year shall be Childhood Cancer
4 Awareness Day in Georgia; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The General Assembly finds that:

- 9 (1) The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on
10 January 1, 1863, and General Lee surrendered in April 1865, officially ending the United
11 States Civil War;
- 12 (2) News of the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of slavery did not reach Texas,
13 Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and California until June 19, 1865;
- 14 (3) On that evening, thousands of former slaves flooded the streets in spontaneous
15 celebration, rejoicing in the news of their long-awaited freedom;
- 16 (4) To commemorate the joyous events of June 19, 1865, June 19 has been observed as
17 "Juneteenth";
- 18 (5) "Juneteenth" and similar Emancipation Day celebrations recognizing the abolition
19 of slavery are officially observed in numerous states and Washington, D.C.;
- 20 (6) Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions, and countries of origin share in
21 a common love of and respect for freedom, as well as the determination to protect their
22 right to freedom through the democratic institutions by which the tenets of freedom are
23 guaranteed and protected; and
- 24 (7) It is only fitting and proper that the State of Georgia appropriately recognize this
25 glorious event marking the end of slavery and the beginning of freedom for so many who
26 had wrongfully suffered in this state and nation.

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
29 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

30 "1-4-23.

31 The day of June 19 of each year is designated as 'Juneteenth' in Georgia in recognition of
32 the events that occurred on June 19, 1865, celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation and
33 the end of slavery."

34 **SECTION 3.**

35 The General Assembly finds that:

36 (1) Childhood cancer is the number one cause of death by disease among children under
37 the age of 19 years;

38 (2) Two-thirds of children with cancer will develop a lifelong condition as a result of
39 treatment, and with 12 types and over 100 subtypes of pediatric cancer, 46 children are
40 diagnosed and seven lose their lives every day;

41 (3) There are 70 potential life years lost on average when a child dies of cancer compared
42 to 15 potential life years lost for adults;

43 (4) Pediatric cancer occurs regularly and randomly among children, sparing no ethnic
44 group, socioeconomic class, or geographic region; and

45 (5) Those working in the field of pediatric oncology demonstrate great compassion,
46 understanding, and kindness for the children in their care, and their dedication and
47 commitment to the betterment of the world is appreciated and acknowledged.

48 **SECTION 4.**

49 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
50 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

51 "1-4-24.

52 September 1 of each year is designated as 'Childhood Cancer Awareness Day' in Georgia."

53 **SECTION 5.**

54 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.