



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

520 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 • Sacramento, California 95814-3368  
Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE  
*Chief Justice of California*  
*Chair of the Judicial Council*

MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director*

CORY T. JASPERSON  
*Director, Governmental Affairs*

September 8, 2022

Hon. Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 1655 (Jones-Sawyer) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Judicial Council respectfully requests your signature on AB 1655, which adds June 19th, known as “Juneteenth,” to the list of California state holidays and requires that courts be closed in observance of this day as a judicial holiday.

Juneteenth has been celebrated on June 19th since 1866 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. The celebration began in Texas, but it has spread throughout the United States to not only commemorate the end of slavery but also be a day to honor the significant contributions of African Americans to our society.

Currently, 48 states, the federal government, and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or observance. More recently, a number of private companies as well as several other states and local governments have established Juneteenth as a paid holiday. In 2020, Virginia and New York made Juneteenth a paid state holiday, and the states of Washington, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Illinois followed suit in 2021. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed legislation immediately making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Hon. Gavin Newsom  
September 8, 2022  
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Judge Marla O. Anderson, Chair of the Judicial Council's Legislation Committee and Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey made the following remarks in support of AB 1655:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1655, which takes the historic step of making Juneteenth a California state holiday to commemorate the final end to slavery in the United States. As we observe Black History Month, it is particularly meaningful to support this bill's important goal of permanently setting aside June 19th as a day to celebrate not only African American freedom in this country, but also recognize the integral and significant contributions of Black Americans to our nation and the state of California. A Juneteenth holiday provides the opportunity for all Californians and Americans to commemorate the importance of freedom and inclusion.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on AB 1655.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen  
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/jh

cc: Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Akilah Weber, M.D., Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Dave Cortese, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Mia Bonta, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Steven Bradford, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Jim Cooper, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Ken Cooley, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Joaquin Arambula, M.D., Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Miguel Santiago, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. James C. Ramos, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Robert Rivas, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Adrin Nazarian, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Isaac Bryan, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Mike Gipson, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Jose Medina, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Kevin Mullin, Member of the Assembly

Hon. Gavin Newsom

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Hon. Lori D. Wilson, Member of the Assembly

Hon. Chris Holden, Member of the Assembly

Hon. Kevin McCarty, Member of the Assembly

Hon. Sydney Kamlager, Member of the Senate

Hon. Maria Durazo, Member of the Senate

Hon. Monique Limón, Member of the Senate

Hon. Richard Pan, Member of the Senate

Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor

Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California

Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California



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April 21, 2022

Hon. Jose Medina, Chair  
Higher Education Committee  
1021 O Street, Ste 6210  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 1655 (Jones-Sawyer), as introduced – Support  
Hearing: Assembly Higher Education Committee – April 26, 2022

Dear Assembly Member Santiago:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1655, which adds June 19th, known as “Juneteenth,” to the list of California state holidays and requires that state employees, including judicial branch employees, be given time off with pay on June 19.

Juneteenth has been celebrated on June 19th since 1866 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. The celebration began in Texas, but it has spread throughout the United States to not only commemorate the end of slavery but also be a day to honor the significant contributions of African Americans to our society. Texas was the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, and Texas established it as a paid state holiday in 1980.

Currently, 48 states, the federal government, and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or observance. More recently, a number of private companies as well as several other states and local governments have followed Texas’ lead and established Juneteenth as a paid holiday. In 2020, Virginia and New York made Juneteenth a paid state holiday, and the states of Washington, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Illinois followed suit in 2021. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed legislation immediately making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Judge Marla O. Anderson, Chair of the Judicial Council’s Legislation Committee and Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey made the following remarks in support of AB 1655:

Hon. Jose Medina

April 21, 2022

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The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1655, which takes the historic step of making Juneteenth a California state holiday to commemorate the final end to slavery in the United States. As we observe Black History Month, it is particularly meaningful to support this bill's important goal of permanently setting aside June 19th as a day to celebrate not only African American freedom in this country, but also recognize the integral and significant contributions of Black Americans to our nation and the state of California. A Juneteenth holiday provides the opportunity for all Californians and Americans to commemorate the importance of freedom and inclusion.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 1655.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Kate Nitta at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen  
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/KN/jh

cc: Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee  
Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Akilah Weber, M.D., Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Steven Bradford, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Isaac Bryan, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Mike Gipson, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Chris Holden, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Sydney Kamlager, Member of the Senate  
Ms. Jeanice Warden, Chief Consultant, Assembly Higher Education Committee  
M. Lyndsay Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy and Budget  
M. Joey Freeman, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California  
Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California



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March 23, 2022

Hon. Miguel Santiago, Chair  
Governmental Organization Committee  
1021 O Street, Ste 6150  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 1655 (Jones-Sawyer), as introduced – Support  
Hearing: Governmental Organization Committee – March 30, 2022

Dear Assembly Member Santiago:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1655, which adds June 19th, known as “Juneteenth,” to the list of California state holidays and requires that state employees, including judicial branch employees, be given time off with pay on June 19.

Juneteenth has been celebrated on June 19th since 1866 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. The celebration began in Texas, but it has spread throughout the United States to not only commemorate the end of slavery but also be a day to honor the significant contributions of African Americans to our society. Texas was the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, and Texas established it as a paid state holiday in 1980.

Currently, 48 states, the federal government, and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or observance. More recently, a number of private companies as well as several other states and local governments have followed Texas’ lead and established Juneteenth as a paid holiday. In 2020, Virginia and New York made Juneteenth a paid state holiday, and the states of Washington, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Illinois followed suit in 2021. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed legislation immediately making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Judge Marla O. Anderson, Chair of the Judicial Council’s Legislation Committee and Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey made the following remarks in support of AB 1655:

Hon. Miguel Santiago

March 23, 2022

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The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1655, which takes the historic step of making Juneteenth a California state holiday to commemorate the final end to slavery in the United States. As we observe Black History Month, it is particularly meaningful to support this bill's important goal of permanently setting aside June 19th as a day to celebrate not only African American freedom in this country, but also recognize the integral and significant contributions of Black Americans to our nation and the state of California. A Juneteenth holiday provides the opportunity for all Californians and Americans to commemorate the importance of freedom and inclusion.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 1655.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Kate Nitta at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen

Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/KN/jh

cc: Members, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee  
Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Akilah Weber, M.D., Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Steven Bradford, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Isaac Bryan, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Mike Gipson, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Chris Holden, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Sydney Kamlager, Member of the Senate  
Mr. Eric Johnson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee  
Ms. Julia King, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy and Budget  
Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California  
Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California



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*Administrative Director*

CORY T. JASPERSON  
*Director, Governmental Affairs*

February 23, 2022

Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer  
Assembly Member, 59<sup>th</sup> District  
1021 O Street, Ste 5210  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 1655 (Jones-Sawyer), as introduced – Support

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1655, which adds June 19<sup>th</sup>, known as “Juneteenth,” to the list of California state holidays and requires that state employees, including judicial branch employees, be given time off with pay on June 19.

Juneteenth has been celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup> since 1866 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. The celebration began in Texas, but it has spread throughout the United States to not only commemorate the end of slavery but also be a day to honor the significant contributions of African Americans to our society. Texas was the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, and Texas established it as a paid state holiday in 1980.

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Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer

February 23, 2022

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For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 1655.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Kate Nitta  
Attorney

KN/jh

cc: Hon. Mia Bonta, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Akilah Weber, M.D., Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Steven Bradford, Member of the Senate  
Hon. Isaac Bryan, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Mike Gipson, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Chris Holden, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Member of the Assembly  
Hon. Sydney Kamlager, Member of the Senate  
Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
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