

Legislative Analysis



JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

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House Bill 4722 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Helena Scott
Committee: Government Operations
Complete to 10-19-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4722 would amend 2005 PA 48 to remove provisions from section 1 of the act that now designate the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

Public Act 54 of 2023, which took effect July 12, 2023, designated Juneteenth as a public holiday in Michigan, to be observed on June 19.¹

The bill would strike provisions regarding Juneteenth that potentially conflict with that act. In addition, the provisions in 2005 PA 48 incorrectly (as noted in committee testimony on HB 4457)² attribute the origins of Juneteenth to the passage by Congress of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. That amendment, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and its territories, became effective in December 1865, not June.

The bill would retain provisions of 2005 PA 48 that declare November 26 of each year to be known as Sojourner Truth Day. (Truth died on November 26, 1883.)

House Bill 4722 cannot take effect unless HB 4457 is also enacted.

MCL 435.361

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/House/pdf/2023-HLA-0050-AE718DCF.pdf>

² <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/House/pdf/2023-HLA-4457-3EF24EC6.pdf>