WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2320

BY DELEGATES ROWE AND PLYES

[Introduced January 11, 2019; Referred

to the Committee on Political Subdivisions then

Government Organization]

1   A BILL to amend and reenact §2-2-1a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating

2   to the establishment of a special memorial day to be known as Juneteenth honoring

3   human rights and the end of slavery in the United States; and encouraging all counties

4   and municipalities in the state to do the same.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. LEGAL HOLIDAYS; SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAYS; CONSTRUCTION OF STATUTES; DEFINITIONS.

§2-2-1a. Special memorial days.

1   (a) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare the week beginning with the Sunday

2   before Thanksgiving as a special memorial week to be known as Native American Indian Heritage

3   Week.

4   (b) The first Tuesday after the first Monday of November is designated Susan B. Anthony

5   Day and shall only be a legal holiday in all years ending in an even number. The Governor shall

6   annually issue a proclamation calling on all schools, civic organizations, government departments

7   and citizens to undertake activities on the designated day and surrounding days to pay tribute to

8   the accomplishments of Susan B. Anthony in securing the civil and political rights of all Americans,

9   including securing equal voting rights for women.

10   (c) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare the week during which December 7 falls

11   to be a special memorial week, to be known as Pearl Harbor and Military Appreciation week,

12   honoring all West Virginians who fought in World War II and all other military conflicts and shall

13   encourage all municipalities in the state to do the same. The State Department of Education is

14   directed to implement a program involving activities in which students shall participate which shall

15   recognize the contributions West Virginians have made to their country through service in the

16   United States Military.

17   (d) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare March 30 as a special memorial day to

18   be known as Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day honoring all West Virginians who served in the

19   United States Armed Forces in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning February 28,

20   1961 and ending May 7, 1975, and shall encourage all counties and municipalities in the state to

21   do the same.

22   (e) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare August 7 as a special memorial day, to

23   be known as Purple Heart Recognition Day, honoring all West Virginians who, while serving in

24   the United States Armed Forces, have been wounded or killed in action and shall encourage all

25   municipalities and counties in the state to do the same.

26   (f) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare July 27 as a special memorial day to be

27   known as Korean War Veteran Recognition Day honoring all West Virginians who served in the

28   United States Armed Forces in the Korean War, and shall encourage all counties and

29   municipalities in the state to do the same.

30   (g) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare the first Thursday in May as the West

31   Virginia Day of Prayer. The West Virginia Day of Prayer corresponds with the National Day of

32   Prayer, 36 U.S.C. §119, on which the people of West Virginia may turn to God in prayer and

33   meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.

34   (h) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare June 19 as a special memorial day to be

35   known as Juneteenth honoring human rights and honoring the end of slavery in the United States.

36   The Governor shall encourage all counties and municipalities in the state to do the same.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make June 19 a special memorial day to be known as Juneteenth honoring human rights and the end of slavery in the United States; and encouraging all counties and municipalities in the state to do the same.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.