June 19, 2003

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 19, 2003, the day the Missouri General Assembly commemorated Emancipation Day.

June 19 is more commonly referred to as “Juneteenth,” and marks the day slaves were given freedom, following the Civil War.

During the 2003 legislative session, lawmakers passed [House Bill 640](http://www.senate.mo.gov/03INFO/hbsumms/HB640.htm), legislation that designates June 19 as Emancipation Day — a state holiday in Missouri — taken to “reflect upon the abolishment of slavery and the enactment of the [13th Amendment](https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/13thamendment.html).”

House Bill 640 also established the “Missouri Juneteenth Heritage and Cultural Festival and Memorial.” A commission was also put into place, consisting of lawmakers and other member, appointed by the governor.

June 19, 2003, the date marking commemoration of Juneteenth — the day marking freedom of slaves in 1865 — on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: [Executive Order 4-14](https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Library/Reference/Orders/2004/eo04_014.pdf))