June 27, 1807

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 27, 1807, the day the Territorial Legislature passed a law allowing slaves to sue for freedom.

As part of the Louisiana Territory, what would become Missouri was interested in ending slavery. The new law included five parts:

* Persons held in slavery to sue as paupers, when;
* Suits, how instituted – counsel assigned petitioner – petitioner not to be removed.

Petitioner about to be removed, defendant may be required to enter into recognizance; petitioner may be hired out when – person hiring to enter into recognizance;

* Weight of proof on petitioner – judgment; and
* Appeal to general court.

After Missouri became a state, a move was made to continue this philosophy. In 1824, the law was slightly revised. In 1845, the Legislature went in the opposite direction, and made suing for freedom more difficult, but kept the process in place.

June 27, 1807, the date marking Territorial Legislative approval of a law allowing slaves to sue for freedom, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [Missouri State Archives](https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/education/aahi/beforedredscott/1807FreedomStatute); [Before Dred Scott](https://books.google.com/books?id=OsbeDQAAQBAJ&pg=PA10&lpg=PA10&dq=Missouri+slaves+sue+for+freedom,+June+27,+1807&source=bl&ots=OzGv2nINlz&sig=s4qAI3x6BDDlehE5K7gXUGfg2H0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjCzpThvcPXAhVMzIMKHXN3D1gQ6AEIMjAD#v=onepage&q=Missouri%20slaves%20sue%20for%20freedom%2C%20June%2027%2C%201807&f=false))