

HB 1853 -- EMANCIPATION DAY COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Bland

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill establishes the Emancipation Day Commission within the Department of Economic Development. The 10-member commission will designate a statewide Juneteenth Heritage and Cultural Festival to recognize the economic and cultural values associated with African Americans. The commission will be responsible for all activities relating to the events and monuments associated with the Emancipation Day Celebration.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown exceeding \$15,167 in FY 2007, Unknown exceeding \$16,976 in FY 2008, and Unknown exceeding \$17,260 in FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will give many children and adults the opportunity to understand the importance of the contributions of African Americans to society.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Bland.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst