

20201267D

SENATE BILL NO. 5031

FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by Delegate Davis
on September 25, 2020)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Locke)

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-3300 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 33 of Title 2.2 a section numbered 2.2-3323, relating to state holidays and other special days; Juneteenth and Abolition Day.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-3300 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 33 of Title 2.2 a section numbered 2.2-3323 as follows:

§ 2.2-3300. Legal holidays.

It is the policy of the Commonwealth to fix and set aside certain days in the calendar year as legal holidays for the people of Virginia. In each year, the following days are designated as legal holidays:

January 1 — New Year's Day.

The third Monday in January — Martin Luther King, Jr., Day to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., (1929-1968), defender of causes.

The third Monday in February — George Washington Day to honor George Washington (1732-1799), the first President of the United States.

The last Monday in May — Memorial Day to honor all persons who made the supreme sacrifice in giving their lives in defense of Virginia and the United States in the following wars and engagements and otherwise: Indian Uprising (1622), French and Indian Wars (1754-1763), Revolutionary War (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican War (1846-1848), ~~War Between the States~~ Civil War (1861-1865), Spanish-American War (1898), World War I (1917-1918), World War II (1941-1945), Korean War (1950-1953), Vietnam War (1965-1973), Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm (1990-1991), Global War on Terrorism (2000-), Operation Enduring Freedom (2001-), and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003-). On this day all flags, national, state, and local, shall be flown at half — ~~staff or mast~~ *half-staff or half-mast* to honor and acknowledge respect for those who made the supreme sacrifice.

June 19 — Juneteenth to commemorate the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas, the last of the former Confederate States of America to abolish slavery, and to recognize the significant roles and many contributions of African Americans to the Commonwealth and the nation.

July 4 — Independence Day to honor the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The first Monday in September — Labor Day to honor all people who work in Virginia.

The second Monday in October — Columbus Day and Yorktown Victory Day to honor Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), a discoverer of the Americas, and the final victory at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, in the Revolutionary War.

The Tuesday following the first Monday in November — Election Day for the right of citizens of a free society to exercise the right to vote.

November 11 — Veterans Day to honor all persons who served in the Armed Forces of Virginia and the United States in the following wars and engagements and otherwise: Indian Uprising (1622), French and Indian Wars (1754-1763), Revolutionary War (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican War (1846-1848), ~~War Between the States~~ Civil War (1861-1865), Spanish American War (1898), World War I (1917-1918), World War II (1941-1945), Korean War (1950-1953), Vietnam War (1965-1973), Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm (1990-1991), Global War on Terrorism (2000-), Operation Enduring Freedom (2001-), and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003-).

The fourth Thursday in November and the Friday next following — Thanksgiving Day to honor and give thanks in each person's own manner for the blessings bestowed upon the people of Virginia and honoring the first Thanksgiving in 1619.

December 25 — Christmas Day.

Whenever any of such days falls on Saturday, the Friday next preceding such day, or whenever any of such days falls on Sunday, the Monday next following such day, and any day so appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth or the President of the United States, shall be a legal holiday as to the transaction of all business.

§ 2.2-3323. Observance of Abolition Day.

The sixth day of December of each year shall be recognized and celebrated as Abolition Day throughout the Commonwealth. The day shall (i) commemorate the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, declaring the abolition of the institution of slavery nationwide; (ii) raise awareness of the historical significance of the Thirteenth Amendment as the only action taken by the executive or legislative branches of the United States government to officially

- 60** *eliminate the institution of slavery; and (iii) recognize the legacy of those who fought for its passage.*
- 61** *The observance of Abolition Day shall not be considered a paid state holiday.*