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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 2375

May 7, 2009

Authored by Hayden, Clark and Champion

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Operations Reform,
Technology and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; modifying provisions governing observance of
1.3 Juneteenth; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 10.55.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 10.55, is amended to read:

1.6 **10.55 JUNETEENTH.**

1.7 (a) June 19 is designated Juneteenth in recognition of the historical pronouncement
1.8 of the abolition of slavery on June 19, 1865, when the Emancipation Proclamation was
1.9 said to have been first publicly read in Texas; by Union soldiers led by General Granger.
1.10 The announcement came 2-1/2 years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation
1.11 Proclamation and two months after General Lee's surrender in April 1865. Juneteenth
1.12 and emancipation celebrations have been commonplace in Minnesota since 1889 as a
1.13 result of community-based grassroots efforts.

1.14 (b) Each year the governor shall issue a proclamation honoring this observance and
1.15 recognizing the important contributions African-Americans have made to Minnesota's
1.16 communities, culture, and economy. The governor may also take any additional action
1.17 necessary to promote and encourage the observance of Juneteenth and public schools may
1.18 offer instruction and programs on the occasion.

1.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.