

Resolution for Liberty Amendments Day

Whereas, Section 1 of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution states: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction” and was ratified on December 6, 1865; and

Whereas, Section 1 of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution states: ”All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” and was ratified on July 9, 1868; and

Whereas, Section 1 of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution states: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude” and was ratified on February 3, 1870; and

Whereas, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution states: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation” and was ratified on August 18, 1920; and

Whereas, these four Amendments provide voting and other rights that allow each citizen to participate in the governance of the their State and the United States; and

Whereas, these four Amendments provide equal freedoms to all citizens of the United States, regardless of race, color, sex, or the country from which they or their ancestors came or how they came; and

Whereas, the United States is strengthened and enriched by the diverse cultures of its citizens’ ancestors; and

Whereas, these four Amendments allow citizens the freedom to recognize their ancestral culture while integrating its strengths into the American culture and in addition in consideration of the significant roles and many contributions these citizens make to strengthen the United States; and

Whereas, the equal rights and freedoms granted by these four Amendments should be recognized and celebrated; and

Whereas, the 4th of July is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776; and

Whereas, the 15th of December is designated as Bill of Rights Day commemorating passage of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States, known as the Bill of Rights; and

Whereas, the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th Amendments were ratified on different dates; and

Whereas, these four Amendments reinforce the rights and freedoms granted under the Constitution of the United States, to each citizen regardless of race, color, or sex, ; now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the General Assembly designate the third Monday in July each year as Liberty Amendments Day; and, be it

Resolved further that the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.