

HCS HB 286 -- EMANCIPATION DAY COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Hoskins (Bland)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute 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 \$14,927 in FY 2006, Unknown exceeding \$16,679 in FY 2007, and Unknown exceeding \$16,955 in FY 2008. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

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

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bland; and Curtis Faulkner, Juneteenth Heritage and Jazz Festival.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst